Bodies of 5 Chinook crash victims found

STORY ON PAGE A2

Mother Ignacia helps Sin recover

By Minerva Generalao
Chief, PDI Research

WHEN Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin was gravely ill in 1998, he recovered not only through the help of his doctors, he also had help from Mother Ignacia del Espiritu Santo, the first Filipino to found a religious congregation, the

MOTHER/A20

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
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March 31, 2002 ★ 94 pages / 9 sections / vol.17 / no. 113 P15

Rico sang to 'woman out of my life'

By Leah Salterio

THURSDAY night actor Rico Yan was at the piano bar of a Palawan resort singing a love song he dedicated to "the woman who's now out of my life."

He crooned Jamie Rivera's hit "Falling for You" for his ex-girlfriend Claudine Barretto, with whom he broke up early this month after a four-year relationship. He also sang David Pomeranz's "Got to Believe in Magic," the theme of the actor's recent movie of the same title opposite Barretto.

The next morning Yan was found dead in bed in a garden cottage of the Dos Palmas Resort. He was 27.

"He was in high spirits," recalled GMA-7 newscaster Arnold Clavio, who had jammed with Yan at Dos Palmas. "He sang other songs and we wrapped up around 4 a.m. He didn't have any premonition (of his death) at all."

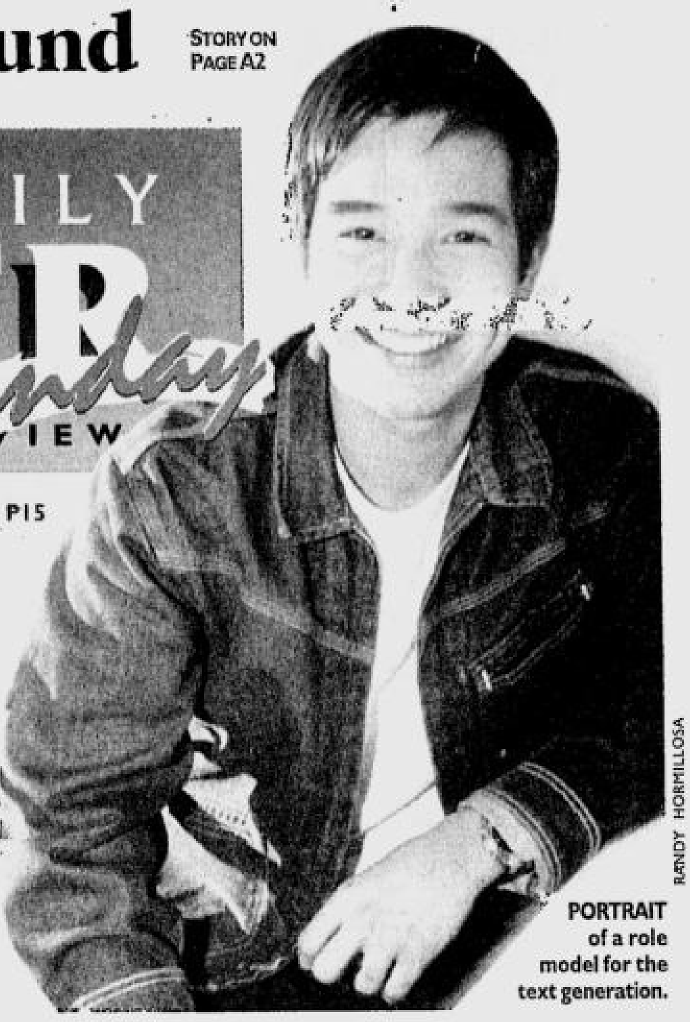
According to a medical report released by Yan's family after an autopsy conducted Friday night at the Arlington Funeral Homes, the actor died of pancreatic hemorrhage. ***(See story on Page A20.)***

Text messages that circulated Friday said Yan died from an overdose of Ecstasy pills, which he reportedly took the night before he died.

But show-biz insiders, including director Olive Lamasan who worked with Yan in two movies, said he was never a user.

"I worked with him for eight months when we filmed 'Got 2 Believe' and we talked about life on the set," Lamasan told the INQUIRER.

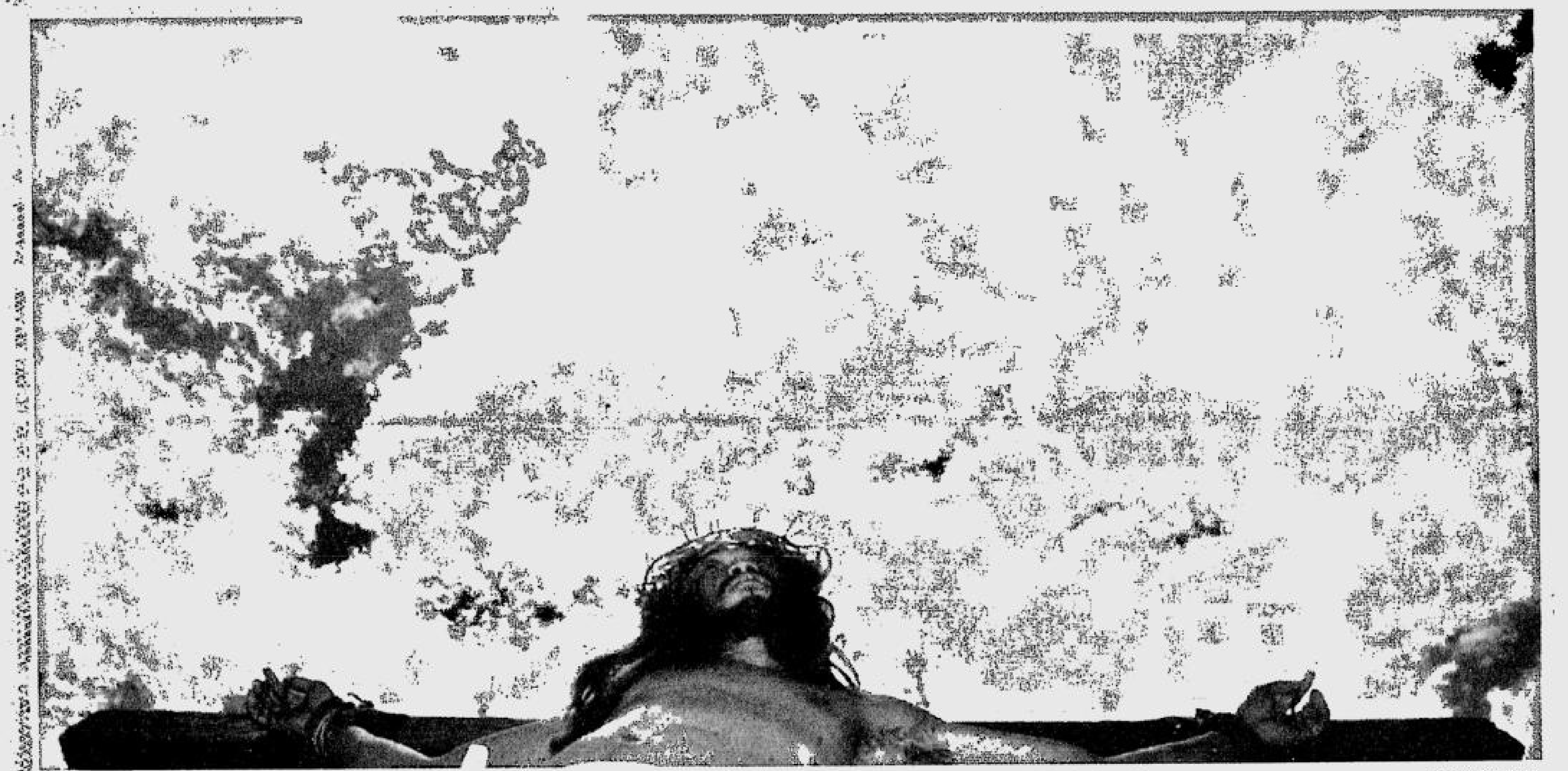
RICO/A20



RANDY HORMILLOSA

PORTRAIT of a role model for the text generation.

RP accepts apology



"FOR YOU have died and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When, who is your life, reveals himself, you will also be revealed with him in glory."

EDWIN BACASMAS

Mexico: 'There are explanations but no justifications. Truly sorry'

By Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr.

OUR forefathers taught us to do no wrong to others. But they also stressed that when wronged, we should resist and seek redress—to right the wrongs, to get amends—but above all to uphold the honor and dignity of the Filipino that is our legacy in life.

The government of Mexico has apologized. We accept this new apology which appears sincere in all respects. And we now leave behind us this lamentable incident, to pursue the historic ties of friendship and cooperation between the Philippines and Mexico.

More than a month ago, when the Department of Foreign Affairs received the invitation for the International Conference on Financing for Development, scheduled for March 21 to 22 in Monterrey, Mexico, I sent a memorandum to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo suggesting that she herself attend it.

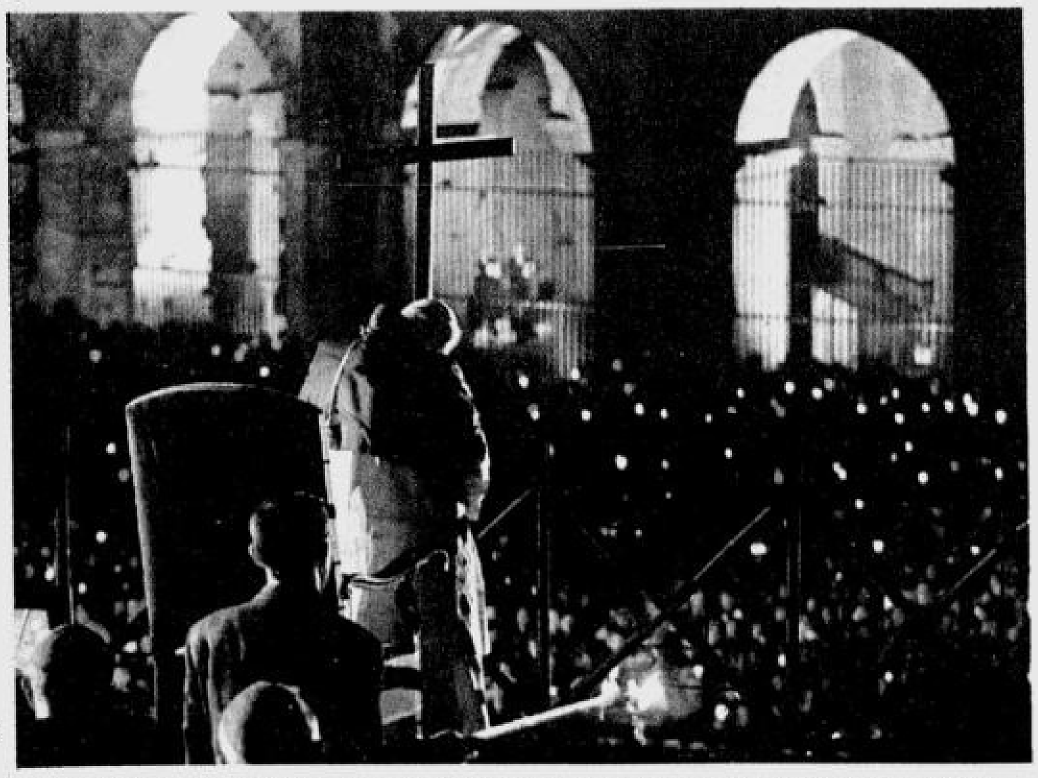
It was a vital meeting initiated by the United Nations where more than 40 heads of state, including Fidel Castro of Cuba and George W. Bush of the United States, and about 60 ministers all over the globe were reportedly going.

The President declined and wrote me a side note stating that I should go instead.

Going from Manila to Monterrey is a difficult route, even by air. We had to travel to San Francisco, then to Dallas, then finally to Monterrey—changing planes, waiting out time lags and adjusting schedules and unforeseen delays like rainstorms that swamped portions of Texas. It took us almost 20 hours of flying time to get there.

The center of attraction for the media was Castro, who gave a resounding speech saying that poverty was getting *worse, not better*—and that for as long

RP/A21



POPE JOHN PAUL II, despite a bum knee, keeps a hectic Holy Week schedule, including the Way of the Cross at the ancient Roman Colosseum on Good Friday. Today, he proclaims to the world: "Christ is risen! Alleluia." *(Story in World, Page A11).*

AP

Arafat calls up world leaders

RAMALLAH, West Bank—As the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, huddled in a windowless office and made frantic appeals to world leaders by cell phone, Israeli troops backed by tanks swarmed into his headquarters here on Good Friday, punching holes in walls and fighting room to room.

The fighting continued yesterday, with heavy machine-gun fire and at least one grenade explosion reported in the city center.

Witnesses said there had been running street battles throughout Friday night between armed Palestinians and Israeli troops.

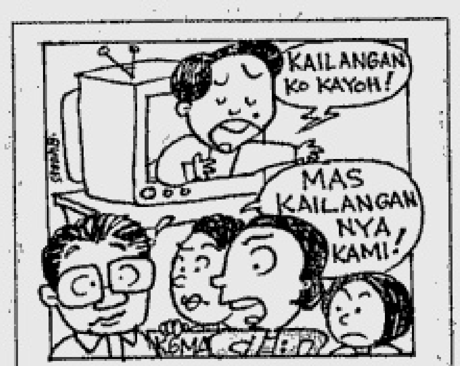
At least five Palestinians and two Israeli soldiers were killed in the attack on Arafat's compound, while some 25 Palestinians were wounded and 60 were detained.

In New York, the United Nations Security Council called on Israel to withdraw its troops from Palestinian cities, including Ramallah.

The United States, Israel's closest ally, joined the 14-0 vote which capped yesterday's marathon meeting of the UN's highest policy-making body.

It was the second time in a month that the United States voted for a Middle East resolution critical of Israel, and represented an about-face from US Secretary

ARAFAT/A13



KAILANGAN KO KAYOH!
MAS KAILANGAN NYA KAMI!
GMA

GMA publicist draws flak for TV commercials

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo's spin doctor may be on the job, but her supporters are not amused.

They think Dante Ang, Ms Macapagal's personal publicist, has been "toying with (her) image" and they are

GMA/A21

Second FRONT PAGE

HAAAY, SALAMAT! DALAWA NA LANG!

5 bodies recovered from downed Chinook

By Connie E. Fernandez
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The bodies of five American servicemen were recovered from the wreckage of the Chinook MH 47 helicopter that crashed some seven miles south of Apo Island in Negros Oriental on Feb. 22.

Capt. Enrico Canaya, spokesperson of the Tactical Operations Command, told the INQUIRER the bodies would be taken to the Benito Ebuen Airbase in Mactan, Cebu, before being flown to the United States.

Canaya said recovery operations would continue for two more missing American servicemen who were on board the ill-fated Chinook.

Ten servicemen died in the crash. The bodies of three of them were recovered immediately after the accident in which the helicopter reportedly burst into flames before crashing into the waters off Apo Island on its way to Ebuen Airbase from Basilan.

Last Monday, the US Armed Forces started salvage operations for the Chinook. At least 18 US Marines from the 510th Joint Task Force based in Zamboanga City took part in the search and recovery operation.

The US Army, which has charge of the recovery operation, had contracted the MV Jan Steen, a Dutch multi-purpose offshore support vessel that has the capacity to reach depths not ordinarily reached by US Navy vessels.

Sources in Negros Oriental told the INQUIRER that four bodies were recovered Thursday morning while one was recovered at night. All were found in an advanced state of decomposition.

The wreckage was located in about 500 meters of water about six miles south of Apo Island. The helicopter was broken into 25 pieces spread over a 450-meter circumference.

Canaya said the Americans' remains would be brought to Ebuen by boat.

American Maj. Cynthia Teramae, spokesperson of the Combined Information Bureau, said that with the recovery of the bodies, the salvage crew working in the waters off Negros Oriental would concentrate on looking for the two remaining bodies.

At least 10 US servicemen were on their way to Cebu when the Chinook they were in crashed off Zamboanguita in Negros Oriental, some 150 miles northeast of Zamboanga City.

"(The) recovery operations to locate the two remaining missing crewmen continue," Teramae said.

She said the recovered bodies will be taken to the Ebuen Airbase where US mortuary specialists will "prepare the remains for transportation to the Charles C. Carson Center for Mortuary Affairs at Dover Air Force Base" in Delaware.

"After processing, the center will turn over the remains to their next-of-kin for burial," Teramae said.

The recovery of the five victims came after the US military's Naval Sea Systems (NAVSEA) Command used high tech equipment used in extensive salvage and recovery operations.

"NAVSEA provided a US government-owned towed pinger locator, a remotely operated vehicle known as "deep drone" and a shallow water side-scanning sonar search system known as SWISS," Teramae said.

The deep drone, she said, has an underwater camera and a sonar location system.

"It is capable of covering a wide range of depths. It is equipped with manipulator arms and claws to pick up items. The SWISS was selected for its ability to operate in this particular ocean area and in average sea state conditions," Teramae said. ***With Alex V. Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau, and Alexander M. Young, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

MESSAGES

'There is rebirth awaiting'

MACAPAGAL

"AS THE CULMINATING point of the entire Christian ecclesiastical year, Easter is the most awesome of the mysteries of faith because of the profound truth it offers mankind—that after death there is resurrection, that after every trial and suffering there comes redemption, and that even as we carry the heavy crosses of life, there is rebirth awaiting at the journey's end.

"Let Easter resurrect in us the noblest virtues that will make us endure as a nation and as a people. These are the qualities of love for our neighbors, justice for every wrong, peace for the troubled, strength for the weak, help for the poor and needy, and unity to enable us to live and work together as brother Filipinos to all.

"On this glorious day of the Risen Christ, the blessings and joy of Easter to one and all."

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President

'Truth has triumphed'

SIN

JESUS is risen! We sing "Alleluia." And why do we rejoice? We rejoice because our faith in Christ has been vindicated. Truth has triumphed over falsity, justice over injustice and tragedy has turned into happiness.

At first, many thought otherwise. The suffering and death of Jesus apparently showed the triumph of falsity over truth, of injustice over justice, of evil over goodness.

The people He loved demanded His crucifixion. It was a story of betrayal and lies, dishonesty and meanness, unfaithfulness and wicked violence directed against an innocent and helpless victim. Jesus was scourged, mocked, led on the death march, nailed to the cross where he died and was hastily buried in a tomb. If that were the end of the story, it would be a bad story, a tragedy. But this glory and power of God does not end there.

Death is not the end of the story. There is one more chapter. The most important chapter must follow. And in the last chapter of the story of Jesus, we see Him rise from the dead in all glory and majesty. He is vindicated. His enemies are shamed and confused. Jesus regains his eternal glory with the Father. He is the Lord who will prevail over all humankind. For us, his embattled followers, this is good news.

It is good news to know that truth is immortal. We can suppress truth, accuse it of being a lie, condemn it, torture it, kill it, bury it in the grave but in the end truth will rise again. Let us remember this and do not give up on truth even when everybody seems to give up on it. Do not give up on truth; do not give up on justice. Do not give up on doing the right thing. True will always be true. Just will always be just. Right will always be right, even when the world around us would have it otherwise.

Dear friends, Easter means Christ has won. We are an Easter people! We know that in Christ we shall overcome. In Christ we are victorious! Through the power of the Risen Lord, truth and justice will always prevail. Let us therefore remain faithful to the end, so that just as we share in Christ's passion, we too may share in His glorious resurrection!

Happy Easter!

Jaime L. Cardinal Sin
Archbishop of Manila

A. Mortel, 62

VETERAN newspaper editor Antonio S. Mortel died on March 27of heart failure. He was 62.

Mortel was an editor at Pilipino Star Ngayon, the Philippine Daily Express, the Journal Group of Publications and Sun Star Manila. He was also a columnist at RP Daily Exposé.

He was also former president of the Screen Writers Guild of the Philippines and the Philippine Movie Press Club, director of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board and a member of the Film Academy of the Philippines.

He is survived by his wife Victoria, daughters Honey Madonna and Maria Marion, son Joseph Francis, granddaughters and a grandson. His remains lie at the Loyola Memorial Chapels in Guadalupe, Makati City. Internment will be on Tuesday.

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Gloria to mark Easter at site of first Mass

TACLOBAN CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo will attend Easter Mass today in the island town of Limasawa, Southern Leyte, where the first Christian Mass was celebrated on Philippine soil also on an Easter Sunday 481 years ago.

The President is expected to arrive in Limasawa at 8:30 a.m. with her family and some top government officials.

To welcome the President and her party are Limasawa Mayor Albert Esclamado, Southern Leyte Gov. Rosette Y. Lerias and Southern Leyte Rep. Anecito Saludo, other local and regional officials and residents of the island town.

Maasin Bishop Precioso Cantillas and several priests will celebrate the Easter Mass at the coastal village of Magallanes, the very same place where Fr. Pedro Valderrama celebrated the first Mass in the country.

Earlier, the Philippine Independent Church will celebrate a Mass also in Magallanes. Many residents of Limasawa belong to this church.

While in Magallanes, the President is expected to formally open an agri-aqua exhibit and to watch the Sinugdan Festival. Sinugdan is a Visayan term that denotes "beginning."

In the past, the "Sinugdan" was a province-wide competition. This time, only Limasawa residents will take part in the festival that highlights the way of life of the native Limasawans, the coming of the Spanish fleet led by Magellan and the meeting of the foreigners and the natives.

On March 31, 1521, Father Pedro Valderrama celebrated a Mass that Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan and his men attended.

The natives led by Rajah Colambu and his cousin, Rajah Siaqui, were also present then.

That event in 1521 was the first meeting of the cultures of the West and the East.

Antonio Pigafetta, the voyage chronicler, wrote an account of what happened during their seven-day stay on Limasawa, including the *"casi-casi"* or the brotherhood relation ritual between Magellan and Rajah Colambu.

The Sinugdan festival will also reenact the meeting of the foreigners and the native chieftains and islanders, the celebration of the first Mass and the planting of a wooden cross on the highest part of the island. ***Vicente S. Labro, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Blue powder has cops stumped

POLICE officials remain clueless about the "blue powder" found in improvised bombs planted in several parts of Metro Manila and some provinces the last two weeks.

"This is the first time we saw such a substance. We have seen bomb components colored gray, pink and even yellow, but not blue," said Senior Supt. Ernesto Belen, director of the Philippine National Police firearms and explosives division (FED).

Belen said the PNP crime laboratory, not the FED, was conducting tests on the substance.

Chief Supt. Jose Marlowe Pedregoza, PNP crime lab director, said it might take some time before his office could establish what the blue powder is.

"It would take a month to determine what kind of substance this is," he said in a brief mobile phone interview. He said the crime laboratory had the equipment and capability to conduct the tests.

Officials said earlier the FED and the crime lab would determine the chemical makeup of the blue powder, simultaneously with the United States' Federal Bureau of Investigation.

PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza had sought FBI assistance in analyzing the blue powder. ***TJ Burgonio***

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French police to train local cops

FRENCH police are coming to Manila next month to train at least 60 of their local counterparts in techniques to combat urban terrorism and money laundering, police officials said.

Chief Supt. Florencio Fianza, national police director for human resources and doctrine development, said the training would consist of three courses on anti-terrorism and money laundering.

"One part of the training would involve the teaching of theories in the classroom. The other part involves simulated close quarter combat against terrorists, which will be done outside the classroom," Fianza said in an interview.

The three-week training starts on April 26 and will be held at police headquarters compound in Camp Crame, Quezon City, Fianza said.

Fianza's office would pick the 60 participants from the ranks of non-commissioned police officers (police officer 1 to senior police officer 4) and commissioned policemen (those of higher rank).

The French police attaché in Manila made the offer to train Filipino policemen during one of his talks with Fianza.

The training comes three months after the US government deployed 600 soldiers in Mindanao to help train the Philippine military in anti-terrorism tactics with the goal of wiping out the Abu Sayyaf kidnap group. *TJ Burgonio*

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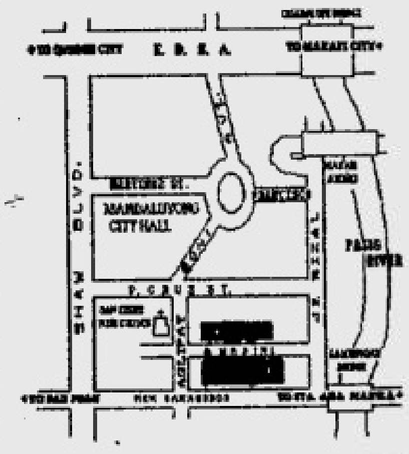

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GMA acts to slow deportations

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will send a special envoy to Malaysia next week to try and slow down the deportation of some 4,000 Filipinos from Sabah, Malaysia.

Ms Macapagal said it was the best she could do since Malaysian authorities had a right to deport illegal aliens from their country.

More than 7,000 Filipinos are expected to be deported from Sabah this year, with some 3,000 of them already back in the Philippines.

The President ordered Paul Dominguez, her adviser on regional development, to leave for Kuala Lumpur right after the Holy Week.

"The (Filipinos) are really illegal," she said on Friday. "They're not documented, so we cannot stop (Malaysian authorities) from sending them back, but (we can ask them) to slow it down so we could absorb them better."

The deported Filipinos are sent to Zamboanga City, whose officials have complained they cannot accommodate so many returnees.

The President said the Department of Social Welfare and Development will help the deported Filipinos, many of them entire families, return to their home provinces from Zamboanga City.

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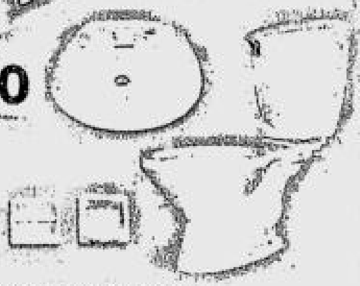

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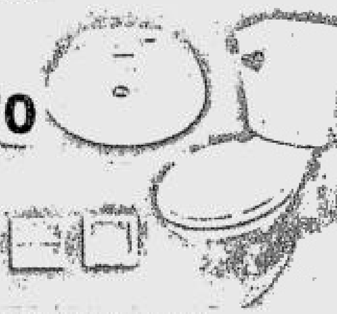

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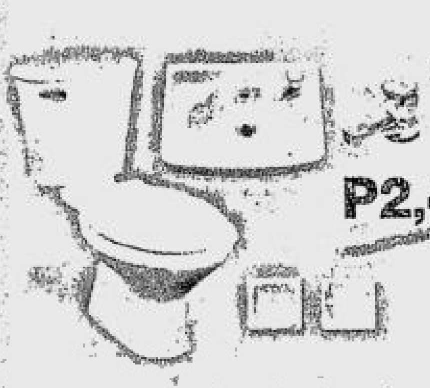

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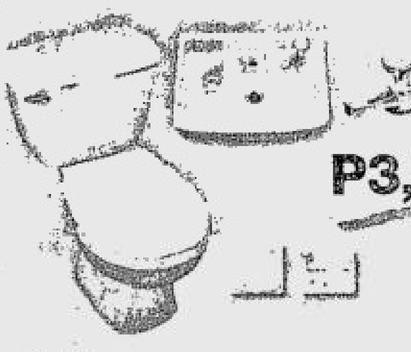

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Misuari complains of 'ill-treatment'

ILIGAN CITY—Detained Muslim leader Nur Misuari, who is awaiting trial for rebellion, has complained to the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) about his "ill-treatment" by the Philippine government, his lawyer said last Wednesday.

Lawyer Macapanton Abbas released copies of a letter that he said the rebel leader and former governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao sent to OIC Secretary General Abdulwahed Belkeziz on Friday.

Misuari has been held in a Sta. Rosa, Laguna police camp after Malaysia deported him in January following his escape from rebellion charges for allegedly instigating a pocket revolt in Jolo, Sulu. The rebellion in November last year caused more than 100 deaths.

Misuari, a leader of the separatist Moro National Liberation Front, warned that the OIC's efforts to forge peace in Mindanao, homeland of a large Muslim minority, could be "stalled by my illegal and arbitrary detention."

He accused the Supreme Court in the letter of having prejudged him when it rejected his plea to have his arrest and detention declared as illegal.

Misuari, whose group has observer status in the 57-nation OIC, also complained that his detention was unconstitutional.

"There can be no public trial if it is inside an exclusion zone like a military camp, because the public, meaning everyone, cannot enter such area according to the rules of the military," he said.

"As of today, I am not even allowed access to media and visitors are strictly limited and monitored," he added. *AFP*

DTI assures traders on fixed holiday sked

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry has assured businessmen irked by Malacañang's "holiday economics" that the government would adhere to a fixed holiday schedule to be announced at the beginning of each year.

Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said the government fully supports the business community's proposal to set a fixed number of holidays every year, including adjusting holiday celebrations to fall on either a Monday or a Friday.

Businessmen had criticized President Macapagal-Arroyo's "holiday economics"—where workers are given more days off to encourage them to spend more on local tourism—because it disrupts their operations. ***Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.***

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Qualified youth delegates must be 18 to 30 years old, single, has good moral character, active officer/member of youth organization, physically and mentally fit, preferably a first-time traveler, must not have received an NYC-funded international travel, has strong background of history, geography, culture, and current events in the Philippines, ASEAN, and Japan; and must be a resident of the region represented for at least one year.

Qualifications for National Leader are as follows: must be 31 years old or above, a government employee or official, physically and mentally fit to travel, of good moral character and knowledgeable in ASEAN and international concerns. Experience in youth-related affairs will be an advantage. The National Leader will serve as government representative in the program.

Interested parties may visit the NYC website (www.youth.net.ph) to obtain application forms and the list of application requirements. Only complete requirements will be entertained.

Complete application requirements must be delivered personally or sent by mail **on or before April 12, 2002** to:

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OPINION

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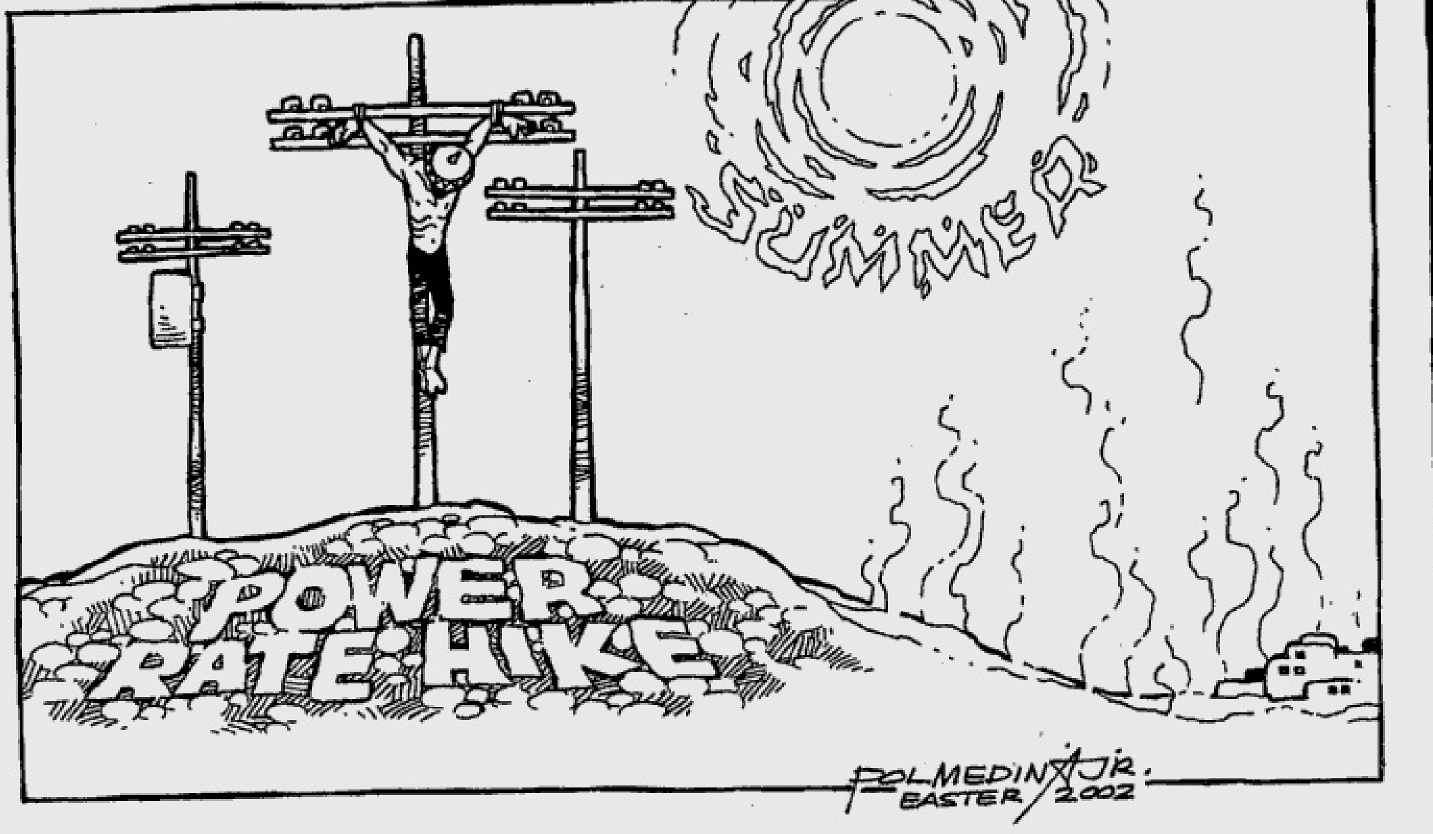


The empty tomb

EDITORIAL

THERE is a bus plying the Northern Luzon expressway with a message painted on its back that is quite literally a sign of the times. "We come in peace," it reads in bold letters. And then underneath, in smaller type: "But if you reject this, may you rest in peace."

Like many a joke, this one is in deadly earnest. Despite its appropriation of the Christian lexicon, however, "peace or death" is anything but a Christian message. As the empty tomb we celebrate every Easter Sunday reminds us, it is in fact the exact opposite.

"Murder calls for the tomb, and the tomb is but the prolongation and perpetuation of murder," the radical thinker Rene Girard writes in "Things Hidden Since the Foundation of the World." What he means is that the tomb gives meaning to the violence that killed the victim—and in turn justifies the violence that the victim's survivors seek to inflict on the victimizers.

The cult of the tomb, especially if used for political or racial or religious reasons, perpetuates the cycle of violence. The bloodbath in the Balkans in the 1990s, for instance, can be traced directly to Slobodan Milosevic's cynical exploitation of an ancient defeat and a 600-year-old corpse. The eye-for-an-eye conflict in certain parts of Muslim Mindanao has not only left many of our countrymen blind to the possibilities of the future; it has also made a future lived in peace even more remote. And we need only read the modern-day Middle Eastern meaning of martyrdom to understand why one suicide bomber—or 19, in the case of the Sept. 11 terrorists—leads not to the end of the old order of terror but its continuation.

"Alas for you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You who build the sepulchers of the prophets and decorate the tombs of the holy men," the impolitic Christ tells those who oppose him. The writer Gil Bailie, in a provocative exploration of these unsettling words, locates the meaning of this rebuke in our complicity—ours, all of us—in the culture of violence. "Tombs have precisely the opposite effect that the crowing of the cock had on Peter in the passion story," Bailie writes in "Violence Unveiled." "The crowing cock made Peter conscious of the fact that he had been swept into the mimetic complicity with those who murdered Jesus. Tombs function to extinguish precisely that recognition of complicity."

In other words, we "decorate the tombs" in order to forget that, like those who chose Barabbas over Christ, we have always been part of the violent crowd.

It is for this reason that Christians in a skeptical world must celebrate the emptiness of Christ's tomb, instead of feeling a vague discomfort about it, as though a piece of the puzzle were missing.

For many Christians, the lack of evidence pinpointing the location of Christ's actual tomb, the same one the kindly Joseph of Arimathea had prepared for himself, is a troublesome issue. That it cannot be located is a direct result of its emptiness; after all, why decorate the tomb of someone who isn't there? But, precisely because the tomb is empty, the Christian faith turns the culture of violence upside down (or inside out).

Bailie writes: "The discovery of the empty tomb means that Jesus' corpse and its resting place could not be made into a shrine and become the locus for a new religious cult"—that is, an old-order cult of the tomb.

The central creed of the Christian faith is that God-made-man died to save all men from death—the meaningless, ignominious death that are the wages of sin. Christ, therefore, is the ultimate victim.

But unlike those who practice the cult of the tomb, the ultimate victim's survivors—Christ's followers, those who call themselves by his name—are called upon to forgo vengeance, to abandon violence, to forsake the easy retaliation—"may you rest in peace,"—in case of rejection.

If we understand it in this Easter light, the empty tomb becomes an embarrassing puzzle no longer, but the explanation, the vital sign, of all time.

An Easter thought

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

DISMAYED by the many problems besetting our country, we tend to be cynical and critical of the government that is supposed to solve them but has failed so far. In the spirit of Easter, however, let us lay aside our usual complaints and disappointments if only for a forgiving moment. Let us consider instead our many God-given blessings despite the misery around us.

One of our most serious problems is the deteriorating peace and order. Dissidents and bandits flout the authority of the Republic and scoundrels of every stripe, from the robbers and rapists to the murderers and plunderers, thumb their noses at the law enforcers. Many policemen and soldiers are in cahoots with the lawbreakers and some of their officers even mastermind their operations.

We should be grateful, though, that we have not yet been converted into a police state, where criminality is effectively controlled by the suppression of individual liberties. Iraq and North Korea are ready examples. We have not yet been reduced to the cruel regimentation of some totalitarian countries where spitting is punished with flogging and women who uncover their faces in public are put to death.

US President Gerald Ford once remarked that few crimes are committed in penal institutions because the conduct of the convicts is under strict scrutiny and restriction. He would not recommend such discipline, however, because it would convert the whole country into a vast prison where the Bill of Rights is scorned as useless rhetoric.

The purpose of this piece is to celebrate liberty. While crime must be prevented and criminals penalized, the police and the military are not allowed to abuse their authority. They cannot break down any door in the middle of the night and arbitrarily seize suspected criminals. No person can be detained without charges and indefinitely imprisoned or executed without trial. The Nazi pogrom against the Jews has not (yet) happened here although certain isolated incidents have given cause for concern.

Some of our people take our liberty for granted without realizing that it is an invaluable gift not available to many nations elsewhere. The freedoms we enjoy are practically unknown in many countries in Africa, the Middle East and South America. Remember the kilometer-long queues of South Africans who waited in the sun for hours to exercise their right to vote for the first time in 1991? Filipinos have been enjoying their suffrages since the turn of the last century.

We still have our share of crooked and stupid leaders, but we're no longer under the heel of despots who can rob us blind and disdain our liberties. This is because we are protected by a Constitution we freely framed and adopted to uphold our rights against oppressive regimes.

Under our Constitution, every citizen can do as he pleases, subject only to the limitations of the law for the promotion and protection of the public welfare. *Salus populi est suprema lex.* The free Filipino can worship as he pleases, or not at all; speak out his mind or choose to be silent; marry for love or an ugly heiress; be a professional or a proud manual laborer; walk to work or buy a car; live alone or mix with his neighbors; build a house or rent an apartment; hoard his wealth or give to charity; go on a diet or gorge on steaks; elect a statesman or support a moron, and do other acts that proclaim his liberty.

Even the suspected criminal is coddled by the law. A person under custodial investigation for a crime is protected by the Miranda rights now embodied on our Charter. His right against unreasonable searches and seizures and to the privacy of his communication and correspondence is inviolable. If arrested, he can be granted bail unless he falls under the constitutional exception. Due process constantly and imperatively demands his fair treatment. At the trial, he is presumed innocent until the contrary is proved. He has the right to be heard by himself and counsel, to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation against him, to have a public, impartial and speedy trial, to meet the witnesses face to face and to have compulsory process for his defense. He cannot be compelled to be a witness against himself.

No person can be imprisoned for debt or non-payment of a poll tax. He cannot be prosecuted under an *ex post facto* law or a bill of attainder. If validly convicted, he cannot be made to pay an excessive fine or suffer a cruel, degrading or inhuman punishment. He may appeal as a rule. And he cannot be placed in double jeopardy of punishment for the same offense or the same act.

It is true that these liberties are not strictly observed by law-enforcers with an excess of zeal or corruption. The little people are the ones who are often victimized. It is also true that the government itself has not always been the guardian of our rights but is often its predator. Many of our leaders are far from exemplary with their shoddy credentials and secret schemes. But let us not forget that it is we who have given them the power to repay our faith with their iniquity.

Still, we must be thankful that, for all our troubles, we Filipinos are far freer than many other people who are under the yoke of tyrants. That is reason enough for me, selfish though it may be, to wish everyone a joyous Easter as we prayerfully welcome the Risen Lord.

Are you depressed?

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

ONE early morning, while it was still dark, I was hurrying up for a Dawn Mass when from out of nowhere, a man suddenly approached me and asked: "Excuse me sir, are you depressed?" I looked at him with a puzzled smile and said "No." He insisted, "But you look depressed." Quite puzzled now, I said "Well, I have problems in this life but I'm certainly not depressed!" After some moments, I finally got it. The man was the driver sent by the sisters to fetch the priest who would say Mass in their convent, and what he was asking all along was "Are you the priest?" Not wanting to miss the joy of the moment, I answered, "What do you meant?"

* * *

Are you depressed? Forget your small worldly cares and concerns, and look up to see the big picture of Easter. The most beautiful story ever told is that of a God who loves you and me so much that He sent His only Son into our world. He suffered and died on the cross, and rose to life in order to save us and bring us to eternal life. Because of life after death, we have found hope and meaning in this life. Death is not the end. Life does not end with a period, but with a comma. It is not *wakasan*, but, *itutuloy...abangan ang susunod na kabanata...may bukas pa!*

* * *

We often laugh at the Filipino habit of smiling whenever there's a picture-taking, even in funerals! But maybe there is a deeper message of faith in this seemingly silly Filipino custom. That we Filipinos can smile even in the face of death is for me an indication of our deep faith in the Resurrection. We look beyond, we cross over the ugliness of death and focus on the big picture of eternal life. Next time you see a Filipino smiling at a funeral picture-taking, don't laugh or disdain. That, is a picture of concrete faith in action.

* * *

Last Monday, I read with much concern the results of a recent survey called "Youth 2000," saying that only 30 percent of today's Filipino youth believe in life after death. True or not, this is very alarming and should serve as a wake-up call for all of us. I must admit that the report burdened me somehow as I went about my Holy Week schedule of talks and recollections. But what lifted the burden was what I saw on Holy Thursday evening. Walking by the thousands were young people on their way to Antipolo. What a sight! With their back packs, hundreds (literally hundreds) of young people were heading for the Antipolo shrine all through the night. Their reasons for doing so may have been sacred or profane, but still for me, that was a beautiful picture of our young people with faith. Let us not underestimate them. Let us accompany them in their journey. What would have been good *sana* that night was if the church was also there walking with them and not just waiting for them at the shrine.

* * *

Last Holy Monday, upon the invitation of Bishop Gabriel Reyes, I was in Kalibo for a Lenten Recollection. I was touched by the simple and joyful faith of the people. The other thing that struck me was the simplicity, zeal and humility of Bishop Reyes himself. Literally, a good shepherd who walks with his fold wherever they are. Meeting him in person and up close was in itself a Holy Week meditation for me. May we have more good and humble shepherds!

* * *

Another Holy Week reminder for me was my stay at the Pink Sisters' Convent in New Washington, hometown of our dear Jaime Cardinal Sin. The accommodations were simple and basic, but restful and comfortable. When I woke up in the morning, I could not find a mirror in the room. After some moments of looking for a mirror, I took it as God's way of telling me that what mattered was not the external appearance but the internal. *Dyaporms* in the outside, deformed in the inside? Good reminder for all of us.

* * *

The Pink Sisters are the cloistered members of our Arnoldus Family founded by Blessed Arnold Janssen, together with the Society of the Divine Word (SVD) and the Holy Spirit Sisters. Cloistered yes, but definitely not miserable. We shared so much joy and laughter in my conference with them, arranged by their dedicated chaplain, Fr. Owie Obmaces, SVD. The sisters have a 24-hour adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and that, I believe, is the source of their childlike hope and joy. Resolve: Spend more time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and you will be in the pink of health, spiritually.

* * *

Easter is not only some church event that happens only once a year. The Passion-Death-Resurrection is an event that happens in our own lives and relationships. I pray that those who are going through a Good Friday in their lives now may soon experience an Easter morning. Let us also pray that someday soon, we in the Philippines will experience a new Easter morning. May the hope and joy of Easter be with us all. As we go back to our realities, may we all draw strength from the big picture of Easter that can make us smile in spite of good Fridays and calvaries in life. Happy, blessed and continuous Easter everyone!

* * *

A MOMENT WITH THE LORD

Lord, no matter how pressed, help me not to be depressed. Amen.

Why Halle Berry wept

COMMENTARY

Leandro V. Coronel

IF you didn't weep with Halle Berry, you don't know about the long struggle by people of color in the United States.

Berry, against all odds, was voted the best actress at last Sunday's Oscars. Upon hearing her name called out, she couldn't believe it. Utter disbelief was painted all over her face. She wept.

Berry is African-American as America's black people prefer to be called. Her copious tears burst out, first, disbelief, and second, joy. Apologizing for her prolonged crying and speechlessness, she said: "This moment is so much bigger than me. This moment is for Dorothy Dandridge, Lena Horne, Diahann Carroll...It's for every nameless, faceless woman of color who now has a chance because this door tonight has been opened."

The kooky Whoopi Goldberg, the evening's emcee, seconded Berry's statement: "It's been a very large door and I'm glad she has kicked it in."

Berry was emotional and obviously overwhelmed by the event. The impact of her moment in the spotlight was overpowering. If you didn't shed a tear for and with her, you have no idea what she was crying about.

Today's American blacks are the descendants of African slaves forcibly taken from Africa to the "New World" to work the Americans' plantations and households. We've seen films and documentaries about shiploads of young and robust African boys and girls being transported like cattle into a life of virtual hell.

For two centuries the "negroes" were deprived by the American whites of their basic rights. They were treated not only as slaves, they were often treated like animals. It would not be an exaggeration to say that pet animals of wealthy white Americans were treated better.

Even after the slaves' so-called emancipation, blacks were treated not even as seconds-class citizens but as, third- and fourth-class people. Even to this day, very few blacks have managed to crawl up from the socioeconomic abyss to which they've been consigned.

In Hollywood, African-Americans are often relegated to humiliating roles as servants and sidekicks. In the past, one or two black actors, like Sidney Poitier and Harry Belafonte, were used as token stars to evade the charge of discrimination and racism among Hollywood producers.

In recent years, excellent actors like Denzel Washington (who won best actor last Sunday), Wesley Snipes, Cuba Gooding Jr., Morgan Freeman, Danny Glover and a few others have managed to break through the color barrier.

Ironically, more black women have had success ahead of the men. For years, outstanding performers like Horne, Ella Fitzgerald, Eartha Kitt, Cicely Tyson, Diana Ross and others have established themselves as more-than-capable artists.

It is this emotional context that explains Berry's tearful incredulity upon hearing herself called out as the best actress.

Most are cynical and distrustful of American society, dominated of course by the whites. Many blacks are bitter at the American establishment, indeed American society, for the centuries of oppression and bigotry that until today exists, albeit to a lesser extent.

Many ethnic minorities, including the Filipinos in America today, might deny the racism in US society. But it's there.

My sense is that the plight of the African-Americans is a non-issue among Filipinos. Filipinos aren't big on rights. No wonder we have a politician who declares that criminals have no rights. No wonder our public officials are puzzled about the claims of an international group that human rights are being violated in Basilan.

Many Filipinos might even side with the whites on the issue of civil rights for American blacks. I think it's an indictment of the Filipinos' sense of fair play and sense of decency that we're not more aware and sensitive about this issue. Actually, the reverse is true, that we're as racially biased as the most bigoted. Don't we make fun of the blacks, even other ethnic minorities like the Chinese?

We couldn't be more wrong on this score. Some blacks are among the most beautiful people in the world. Look at Mariah Carey, the late Alliyah, Alicia Keys, models Iman, Naomi Campbell, Tyra Banks and many others. Look at Berry.

Racial oppression is not a burning issue among Filipinos. It should be. Racism, discrimination, oppression, tyranny and bigotry elsewhere, anywhere in the world, no matter how remote they might seem, affect us all. The early Filipino-Americans didn't land on America's shores in slave boats. Although some early Filipino-Americans did work the fruit and vegetable fields of the America's West, they weren't treated like slaves. Or were they?

Carlos Bulosan's account of his days in America's produce fields should tell us about how the United States treated its citizens that belonged to ethnic minorities. America's forcible incarceration of Japanese-Americans during World War II should tell us about America's racism. America's withholding of full citizenship and rights to African-Americans should tell us about the United States' attitude toward people of color.

America's long record of discrimination against minorities is the reason the Halle Berrys of the world weep when they unexpectedly, even though deservedly, are judged the best in their craft. Perhaps American society's attitude toward minorities and equal rights is changing. But don't blame the many who have suffered over the years if they remain cynical, bitter and distrustful.

Leandro V. Coronel lived in the United States for 28 years and wrote the book, "The Invisible Americans," about the Filipino-Americans' quest for clout.

The will to love

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

LOVE is an act of will. Chance may dictate the initial encounter, and you may be drawn to each other for reasons you can neither explain nor understand. But loving—staying in love, overlooking your partner's flaws, surviving your own seasons of discontent, building a whole new entity from the halves of yourselves—that demands will and decision, work and perseverance.

And that's what love exactly was for Alicia Nash, wife of Nobel Prize-winning mathematician John Nash, in the movie "A Beautiful Mind." How could she not but have willed herself to love and continue loving her husband? He was brilliant, yes, gifted and truly a unique human being, but also crazy. Placed in the same position, married to a schizophrenic whose illness had rendered him incapable of making a living or even fulfilling his role as a husband, would you have persevered as long?

In the movie, Alicia tells her husband: "I need to believe that something extraordinary is possible." She is speaking not just of her husband's battle with schizophrenia, or even of his quest for the achievement of a lifetime. Alicia is also alluding to what would become their remarkable and enduring marriage (or marriages, since she reportedly divorced him midway through their union, only to return). Finding himself increasingly drawn to Alicia, John asks her for "rational proof" of the possibility of love. She asks him in turn how he knows the universe is infinite, to which he replies that, based on what he knows, he simply assumes it is. So it is with love, she avers. And in their life together, she shows him, time and again, just how boundless is, not love, but the will to love another.

* * *

AS the movie tells it, John Nash's breakthrough realization that the people who hounded his days were not real came by way of irrefutable reasoning. "She doesn't age!" he exclaims of the little girl whom his mind had created as a source of comfort and affirmation. Even as his mind was splintering into an alternate reality, his intelligence and reason never left him, helping him "explain" his condition to himself and return to the land of the living.

I haven't seen "Training Day," and so cannot compare Denzel Washington's award-winning performance with that of Russel Crowe in "A Beautiful Mind." But Crowe is better in this movie than he was in "Gladiator," for which he won last year's Oscar. Producer Brian Grazer was right. Without Crowe, there would not have been "A Beautiful Mind." Not just because, I presume, no major studio would have picked up the bill for a "talky" picture unless a star of his magnitude was connected with it. But also because Crowe's portrayal of Nash IS the movie, the reason we stay with it, fascinated by the mutations of the man he had become.

* * *

STILL, much as I teared up at the inspiring story of a man battling the odds and overcoming them, I still don't believe that "A Beautiful Mind" deserved Best Picture honors.

Uplifting and heartwarming as it was, it seemed too narrow and intimate in focus to warrant winning against the really big movies it was up against. It has neither grandeur nor ambition, and it was strictly conventional moviemaking, which makes me wonder, too, why a consistently entertaining and reliable but still workaday director like Ron Howard would walk away with the Best Director prize.

Even before the awards night, I was convinced that "Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" deserved to be named Best Picture. And the least of my reasons is that it captured, in spirit, energy and gravity the mythical power of J.R.R. Tolkien's creation. "Lord of the Rings" is also a movie that harkens back to the age of epics, when movies' reach sought to exceed their grasp, when scope and ambition were not words to be embarrassed by, but valid and admirable qualities to aspire for.

* * *

IF not "Lord of the Rings," though, then at least "Moulin Rouge."

Talk about ambition! Critics may have complained that it was "too busy," "confusing," even "muddled." But it was never dull. It had romance and passion, music and comedy, color and drama, and really dazzling, even dizzying, camera work. I don't know enough about Hollywood politics to explain how "Moulin Rouge" could be nominated for Best Picture while director Baz Luhrmann was completely ignored. As Oscars night host Whoopi Goldberg commented, the entire "busy" movie was made apparently without a director. But "Moulin Rouge" was, if anything, a director's movie, extending the boundaries of filmmaking to its most outrageous and daring limits. "A Beautiful Mind" told a good story, but "Lord of the Rings" and "Moulin Rouge" told their stories very well as very good movies.

Anyway, no quibbles from this corner for the wins of Denzel Washington and Halle Berry. Berry's victory seemed particularly sweet. Years ago, she had overcome the skepticism of many to be given the chance to portray Dorothy Dandridge, the first black American woman to be nominated for Best Actress in a Leading Role, in an HBO made-for-TV movie. Dandridge fought all her life against racism and the limits society imposed on women of color, only to be undone by the Hollywood establishment and her overbearing and controlling producer-lover. How sweet it must have felt for Berry, herself an émigré from what a TV commentator called "bimbo land," to stand onstage knowing she had grasped what lay, tragically, beyond the reach even of the great Dorothy Dandridge.

Filipino piety

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

IN EUROPE, religious piety produced some of the world's greatest artistic achievements—Bach's music, Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel frescoes, and Gothic architecture.

In contrast, Filipino piety cannot seem to rise above the dread with which we regard the Supreme Being. Our ardor does not result in offerings of sustained creativity but only in acts of senseless self-laceration. One wonders what it is about our religious heritage that makes us so lacking in the raw material for worthy acts of piety.

Ben Enaje of Barrio Cutud in San Fernando, Pampanga has had himself nailed on a cross for the last 16 years in fulfillment of a "*panata*" he made for surviving an accident at work. He is a sign painter, and one must ask why he chooses to offer his hands for nailing year after year rather than for creating works of art that would honor Christ whose passion he emulates. Everywhere in the country, young flagellants offer their bloodied bodies as tokens of sacrifice instead of undertaking works of devotion they can easily create with their youthful energies. One does not typically hear of a Filipino who harnesses his talents to create works of soulful artistry for the greater glory of God.

We can only suppose that we are still dealing here with an aspect of the poverty syndrome that hangs like a veil over our national soul. So deep seems to be our sense of impoverishment that we are unable to offer anything to God—not the fruit of our strivings, not our minds, not our art—but our scarred bodies. We do not stand in awe of life's enduring mystery and beauty; instead we kneel in perpetual supplication for the things we desperately lack.

The "*panata*" is usually made in exchange for some favor—a cure for an illness in the family or a break from the spell of an imagined curse—rather than as an act of penance. Our spirituality is transactional. We offer our devotion in return for a wish—a US visa, a winning ticket at the lotto, the return of a prodigal spouse, an overseas job. The expectant throng that El Shaddai gathers every weekend attests to this phenomenon.

Our most ardent prayers are requests for miracles rather than quiet conversations with a God we seek to understand. We show our appreciation for good fortune by acts of sacrifice, but our piety tends to be seasonal rather than sustained. We gather all the sins and misfortunes of the past year, lament our weaknesses, and in one summary act of atonement, we inflict pain upon ourselves for a day hoping to feel chastened the whole year. We remain under the spell of religion as a narcotic art.

So long as we turn to religion like this, so long will it hide from us the real causes of our misfortunes. We demand little understanding of the concrete world in which we live because we think the events that affect us are willed by magical forces that have to be appeased if we are to live tolerable lives. We continue to inhabit an enchanted fearsome world in which our best tools are not our minds and our industry but the power of amulets and incantations. Our manner of worship hasn't changed much from the animism of our ancestors. We still cajole and ingratiate ourselves to a variety of saints and capricious spirits in the hope of making the world a bit more manageable.

In many ways, our religious life is cut from the same fabric as our political life. Our concept of government is that of a remote but provident god, one who dispenses favors rather than empowers, one who must be flattered than reasoned with. We don't see government as a collective organ to assist us in our personal growth, that inspires us to be the best we can be, or takes genuine interest in our achievements. We see it only as a distant being, mysterious in its ways, but who, because of its immense power, can spell the difference between life and death. Feeling too small to make our own approach, we constantly search for intercessors and patrons to access its generosity.

Yet, like our piety, our citizenship is also seasonal. We have nothing much to do with government except when we need something or it's election time. This relationship is likewise uni-directional: we ask and we demand, and we expect government to respond. We do little to transform the relationship into something truly reciprocal. We are so trapped in the cells of our private misfortunes that we are unable to feel and do anything to ease the pain of others.

The parallelism is hardly surprising. In the history of our nation, the belief in one God and the concept of a central government share a common origin. They entered our consciousness as tools of colonialism. The powerful, jealous and vengeful God that the Spanish friars introduced into our culture was an ally of foreign conquest. And central government was little more than an instrument of plunder. It had nothing to do with the people's collective will. Both were alien to the native sensibility. Our ancestors adjusted to their presence by weaving a complex attitude of alternating obedience, indifference and defiance.

We continue to live today with the residues of this attitude, even as we try to make the Christian God and the Western institutions of government our own. With time we should lose our fear and extreme dependence on an Almighty God and a distant government. Hopefully, we can then begin to cultivate spirituality as a habit of inwardness and citizenship as a habit of solidarity.

I do not believe that religious piety will die with modernity. But it may begin to look closer to what William James imagined religion to be: what a person does with his own solitude.

Happy Easter to all!

* * *

Comments to rdavid@pacific.net.ph

A prophecy of doom and deliverance

COMMENTARY

Sr. Maria Raquel Reodica, RVM

A VISIONARY from Paris named Catherine came to me in August 1991. She came two months after Mt. Pinatubo erupted, and one month after I received from the Lord my power to heal the sick.

In Catherine's vision, a voice told her to seek someone from a poor country. She had no clues whom to seek and how to do it. And so she embarked on a long journey to Africa. But it was a useless search. She came back home in frustration. Next, her sixth sense told her to come to the Philippines for reasons she herself did not know. And so she flew to Manila.

By accident or by divine guidance, at the airport, she met someone and asked him where she could possibly find a convent for sisters. It so happened that that someone just came from a retreat at the RVM house in San Fernando, La Union. Catherine went there and stayed with the RVM sisters, peering into the eyes of sisters in search of this person in her vision. Weeks passed. She was in despair. Finally, a sister told her that perhaps she should go to the RVM headquarters in N. Domingo Street in Quezon City. And so she did. Searching endlessly for a face she has never seen before, she never lost hope in spite of the endless days of searching. The sisters were getting suspicious as she peered into the eyes of everyone who came in and out. But she was stubborn. She persevered.

One day, I came home from a trip, and when she saw me, she jumped from her seat. She instantly knew, for some mysterious reason, that it was I she was looking for. Not used to being given such importance, I was amused that one from a distant country would seek me and say she knew me in her vision and had to talk to me. I listened, not knowing if I should believe her or not. She said I was to be involved one day with "global evangelization." And so I asked how this would come about. Catherine answered that she did not know how, only that it would come about. I shelved at the back of my mind her grandiose vision. It would seem so fantastic that I, a simple nun, would be at the core of such a global event. She said journalists from all over the world would assist me. I smiled with amusement and asked myself, "Assist me in what?" I asked Catherine when all this will happen. She simply said it would happen in the Lord's own time, whenever that is.

When I look back at the hundreds, perhaps even thousands I have conducted healings for in the last 11 years since 1991, it begins to dawn on me that perhaps all these healings are leading toward something. Perhaps the Lord is using me for this "global evangelization," whatever it will be, if it will be. Healings of people who are about to die are a form of resurrection, of rebirth or new life. I have seen before me hundreds of such people whom the Lord has touched through me and through the intercessions of the Virgin Mary, St. Joseph and Mother Ignacia del Espiritu Santo. These people were supposed to die in a week, yet their sickness vanished into thin air, shocking doctors; cancer, leukemia, lupus, all kinds of deadly diseases that make us see a world of extreme pain.

Catherine told me that one day I would receive the gift of prophecy. But prophecy, to my mind, is not simply telling the future. Prophecy, as I know it in the religious context, simply means telling people who the Lord is, what He wants people to know and what He wants them to do. Prophecy means, as in the Old Testament, as in Moses, Jacob, Amos, Isaiah and Jeremiah, receiving the Word of the Lord and giving it to people. Prophets are simply messengers of God's Word, not people who tell the future or predict cataclysms.

The simple message of Genesis was God saying, "I am the Lord your God. I created everything. Adore Me and I will bless you." And so those who adored the golden cow were punished. Those who believed they had the supreme power and not the Lord were destroyed. In Exodus, the simple message was, "Let My people go. Free them from bondage and slavery." This same message is here with us today. Only, it is not freedom from slavery but from sickness, ignorance and poverty. This is thus my idea of "prophecy," the message from God to our ever-shrinking war-infested world. The Lord is yearning for freedom of His people from the bondage of sickness, ignorance and poverty. I believe that He has vested in me the gift of healing as the first of these three aspects of bondage.

We will all be judged by what we do. The Lord said, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink...Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least of My brothers, you did for Me." (Matthew 25:35-41)

These things have to be done now. We often take for granted such powerful messages because we heard them when we were children in catechism classes. We forget their power because they were taught to us a long time ago. "Whatever you do to the least of My brethren, you to unto Me." Listen carefully to His words. What have we done to help our brethren? Are we too preoccupied with our own survival that we forget the people suffering around us? Do we look at them with contempt rather than with sympathy in their misfortune? The people who are in need are all around us but we do not see them, or we do not want to see them. We become blind.

The Lord of mercy who heals is also the Lord of fear who punishes. He who speaks gently also speaks harshly. He said, "Depart from Me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil. For I was hungry and you gave Me no food." (Matthew 25:41-42) He speaks not so gently in Amos 5-6: "Woe to those who turn judgement to wormwood and cast justice to the ground...What will this day mean for you? Darkness and not light, as a man who flees a lion only to meet the bear...Woe to the complacent, to the overconfident...They drink wine from bowls and anoint themselves with the best oils...they shall be the first to go into exile, and their wanton revelry shall be done away with. Only a few shall be left to carry the dead out of the houses."

The 10 virgins were awaiting the coming of the groom. The foolish ones lit their lamps and the oil ran out. The wise saved their oil for the coming of the groom. And so the foolish left to buy more oil. But alas, when they were gone, the groom arrived and they closed the gates. It was too late for them. They were barred from the wedding feast.

Time is of the essence. Share with the poor now before it is too late. Do unto the least of His brothers now that you may do unto Him who prepared a kingdom for you. Be so aware of this freedom from poverty and ignorance that the Lord yearns for. Participate in His longing. Much time has been given to us, as with the 10 virgins. Time is wasted. The clock ticks and the hour of the groom's coming approaches slowly and invisibly. There will be a time when it is too late, when there will be no more time, when your help and kindness may be too late.

For those who need healing or want to give to the poor, call 535-9656 or e-mail eastwind@edsamail.com.ph. Donations will go to street children, the homeless elderly, victims of rape and medicine for the needy urban poor.

Sister Raquel is superior of the Mother Ignacia Retreat House in Novaliches and has been to seven countries, healing people in Japan, Korea, Spain, Canada, the United States, etc.

Please send feedback to opinion@inquirer.com.ph

TALK of the TOWN

Editor **Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.**

Do kids need a new curriculum ?

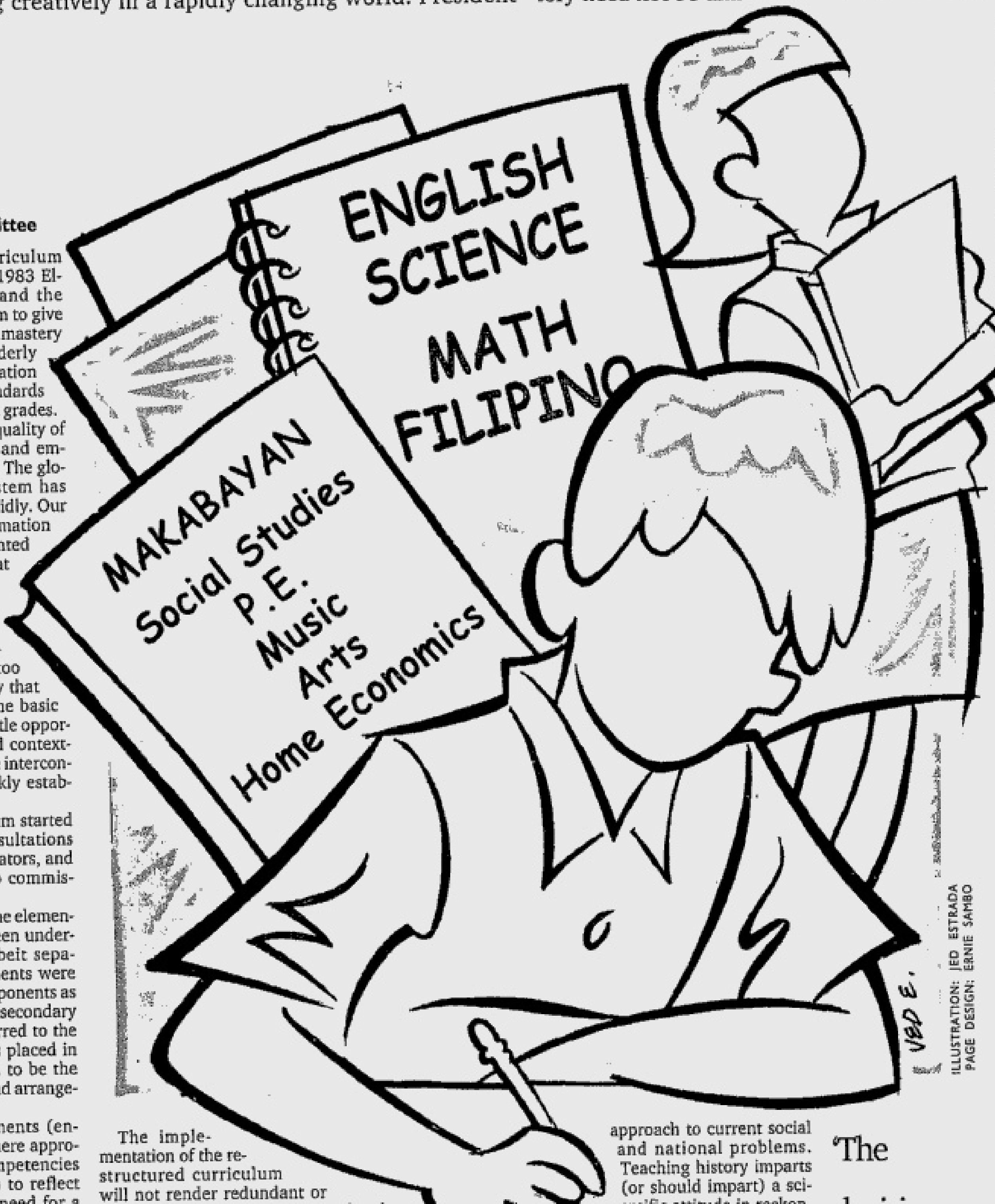
THE DEPARTMENT of Education is adopting a curriculum starting June that reduces the number of subjects for elementary and high school students from as many as 10 to just five—Filipino, English, Science, Mathematics and Makabayan.

DepEd says the old curriculum does not allow students to gain mastery of basic skills because it is too "overcrowded." Under the new scheme, Social Studies, Home Economics, Physical Education, Health and Music will constitute Makabayan.

With the restructured curriculum, DepEd hopes to develop students into skilled Filipinos capable of working creatively in a rapidly changing world. President Macapagal-Arroyo says the emphasis on English, Science and Math will help the country compete in an era of globalization.

Many teachers are against the Basic Education Curriculum. An academic supervisor in a private school says the BEC will reduce the hours devoted to Social Studies and to values education and continue the use of defective textbooks. Others fear losing their jobs as teachers of PE, Music, Health, Arts, and Home Economics.

To ensure that elementary and high school students learn from history, an assistant professor wants Congress to legislate its teaching. He says the teaching of History need not be diminished in favor of Math and Science.



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'Empowering Filipinos to learn how to learn'

By Fe A. Hidalgo
Education Undersecretary
and the Curriculum Reform Committee

THE 2002 Basic Education Curriculum (BEC) is a restructuring of the 1983 Elementary School Curriculum and the 1989 Secondary Education Curriculum to give learners more time for tasks to gain mastery of functional literacy, numeracy, orderly thinking and questioning, communication skills and the gradual unfolding of standards of behavior especially in the first three grades.

The 2002 BEC aims at raising the quality of the Filipino learners and graduates and empowering them to learn how to learn. The global context of our educational system has changed and continues to change rapidly. Our world is increasingly shaped by information and our Filipino learners are confronted with an explosion of knowledge that changes fast.

Overcrowded

Studies indicate that our curriculum is overcrowded. An overcrowded curriculum puts together too many skills and topics in such a way that focus on and time for mastery of the basic skills are lost, and the learners get little opportunity to personally understand and contextualize the major ideas. Moreover, the interconnections among the topics are weakly established.

Initiatives to reform the curriculum started as early as the mid-'90s when consultations were made with teachers, administrators, and the community by a private group commissioned by the department.

Even before these consultations, the elementary and secondary curricula had been undergoing continuing refinements, albeit separately, over the years. The refinements were made in terms of sequencing of components as in the case of Social Studies in the secondary level where Economics was transferred to the fourth year and World History was placed in the third year. This was perceived to be the more logical and pedagogically sound arrangement.

Likewise, there were readjustments (enrichment, updating, or deletion, where appropriate) made on the learning competencies (knowledge, skills, and attitudes) to reflect current realities and address the need for a culture-sensitive curriculum. Furthermore, revisions were made on those competencies that were found to be too low-level or were not contributing to creative and critical thinking. While such refinements were being made on a micro-scale, the macro-level restructuring of the curriculum was also under way, as feedback from formal and informal consultations was reaching the department.

Urgent

In addition to the consultations, two studies have brought to the fore the urgency to restructure the curriculum: the Presidential Commission on Educational Reform (PCER) Report and the Philippine Human Development Report (PHDR) 2000. Also, the NEAT and NSAT results of the last four years show that our learners correctly answer less than 50 percent of the questions in English, Science, and Mathematics. Today, we still have non-readers in the elementary grades and even in the secondary level. We need to focus on enabling the learners to read and understand what they read at least by Grade III and to continue to strengthen functional literacy in all the grade and year levels.

The Curriculum Reform Committee, however, did not see any need to change the entire basic education curriculum in terms of competencies but to restructure it. By restructuring, we are resurfacing or "re-mining" the essentials—giving emphasis to concepts and ideas deemed necessary in developing students into knowledgeable and skilled Filipinos who are capable of living and working creatively and intelligently in our rapidly changing world.

The basic features of the restructured curriculum are the following: 1) restructuring of the learning areas to five [Filipino, English, Science, Mathematics, and Makabayan], (2) stronger integration of skills and topics within and across the learning areas through ways of integrative or interdisciplinary teaching, (3) integration of values education within every learning area, (4) promotion of interactive and holistic learning, (5) increased time for tasks to gain mastery of skills of the basic tool subjects, (6) emphasis on the attainment of functional literacy, and (7) return to the linear sequential approach to Mathematics in the secondary level.

Since there will be five learning areas, what will happen to the teachers and department heads of social studies, home economics, physical education, music, arts, and values education?

The implementation of the restructured curriculum will not render redundant or jobless any teacher or department head. Furthermore, no teacher will become underloaded or overloaded. The teachers and department heads of social studies, home economics, physical education, health, music, arts, and values education will continue to teach their disciplines, but they will also plan together interdisciplinary lessons or integrated units of learning tasks. Thus, Makabayan teachers sometimes teach together (in tandem or as a team) when it is possible and appropriate, and at other times they teach separately.

Collaborative teaching

We recognize the need to update our teachers in various and current instructional approaches and strategies, particularly integrative and collaborative teaching. Between April and mid-May, we are simultaneously conducting the training of all public school teachers at the school level. This is a decentralized training program led by the schools divisions, which will encourage teaching approaches that are appropriate to the local situation, and which could be shared among teachers in areas with common conditions.

Feedback from teachers, principals, superintendents, and regional directors shows that DepEd personnel are gung-ho about implementing the BEC. Education Secretary Raul S. Roco is moving the whole organization toward the common goal of raising the quality of Filipino graduates and learners, and the frontliners—the teachers and principals—are up to this challenge.

'Legislate the teaching of Philippine history'

By Ferdinand C. Llanes
Department of History
University of the Philippines

THE TEACHING of Philippine history in schools is a fundamental and necessary task—as important as the teaching of Mathematics, Science and communication skills.

About an hour of Philippine history a day in grade school can inculcate in the youth lessons in understanding the linkage of the present to the past, which is significant in imparting to students one aspect of an analytical approach to current social and national problems. Teaching history imparts (or should impart) a scientific attitude in reckoning with present social problems, that is, seeking out the bases or sources of such problems. Teaching history requires (or should require) posing questions that relate the present to the past, or the past (as we tell children historical anecdotes) to the present, and exploring the answers by dealing with facts from the records.

There need not be any conflict with the teaching of Philippine history and other "core" subjects like Mathematics and Science. The teaching of history need not be diminished in favor of these. There is only a need to appreciate the role history plays in molding critical and holistic thinking, part of which derives from understanding the roots of the present in the past. The task requires time in the classroom (or historical sites, or after a documentary film showing) for eliciting questions, analyzing events, relating the facts—in light of certain inquiries in the present. Questions on our becoming a nation and problems of nationhood remain a central issue in the need to even strengthen more the teaching of Philippine history in schools. Values our heroes, like Rizal, lived by are well worth imparting to the youth.

The task thus also requires greater competence and creativity on the part of teachers. There is a need to transcend rote learning in handling History in the classroom. Teachers need more access to training seminars and reading materials, especially to update them on the state of the art. We propose to the Department of Education not only to strengthen the teaching of Philippine history in grade and high school but also to support training opportunities. Historical associations like Adhika are more than willing to coordinate with the DepEd to conduct seminars in teaching Philippine history especially in light of changes in the curriculum. Meanwhile, lawmakers may consider the legislation of teaching Philippine history, like Rizal, at all levels of education.

Knowing our history not only helps hone critical and holistic thinking in approaching current social problems, but also contributes to developing a grasp of the problems of becoming a nation. It even supports historical tourism, which may be reaping international awards (or returns) for the Department of Tourism and the country imaginable only with a strong sense of culture and history.

> 'The decision to neuter social studies will breed a generation of Filipinos with no sense of belonging, no feeling of gratitude and obligation to the land of their birth'

'The importance of being deliberate'

By Antonio Calipjo Go
Academic Supervisor
Marian School of Quezon City

NOTHING is more dangerous than an idea such as the new BEC whose time has not come. I base my opposition to this surefire formula for disaster on three grounds: further reduction of Social Studies, evisceration of values education and the continued use of defective textbooks.

Those who cannot look back to the misdeeds of their predecessors are bound to repeat them. It is therefore foolish not to consider history, for the most part a record of the follies and misfortunes of mankind, to determine if we can escape the pitfalls that await us in the future.

We study history for the lessons it is supposed to hold. It is taught to schoolchildren to instill patriotism and civic virtues. We use history to regard the future as fully influenced by the past, and to explain the origin of present problems in order to serve as a forewarning to policymakers of the probable ramifications of their actions.

It is therefore incumbent upon schools to imbue their students with a sense of nationhood and cultural identity. But the decision to neuter Social Studies will breed a generation of Filipinos with no sense of belonging, no feeling of gratitude and obligation to the land of their birth.

Education does not only mean teaching children to know what they do not know; it is also teaching them to behave as they do not behave. True education encompasses the development of the mind and the strengthening of character.

Values education is a preeminent function of the school. Schools are duty-bound to educate morally all students who enter their folds; failure to do so is tantamount to miseducation. A child miseducated is a child lost. A system of instruction, which does not value character building as much as it does academic excellence, is deficient and defective. We bend trees to the shape we want while they are still young precisely because only young twigs, never old trees, may be bent.

The plan to relegate values education to the status of a mere filler, an afterthought, or a grudging concession, will in the end create a nation of half-baked gingerbread children.

Books for the burning

The statement of Education Secretary Raul Roco that "books will still be the same" awakened in me the feeling of despair because my biggest objection to the BEC is precisely in this regard.

My six years fighting this cancer of Philippine education has yielded a bountiful harvest of boils and pustules. Four books contain a mind-boggling 800 errors each. Five books describe the pangolin as "*langgam na may kaliskis.*" Six books show the Philippines as being below the equator on their maps. God, one daft author preaches, created the world in 4000 BC; she further pontificates that "Filipinos are the direct descendants of God." Magellan, she swears, had a map of Mindanao even before he landed here. Four books contain what could well be the motto of the local textbook publishing industry: "*Payat na payat, tuyung-tuyo; walang alinlangang wala siyang modta.*"

These are some of the unbelievable idiocies written in our books. People raise hell when their cars get an inch-long scratch yet keep mum when many of their children's books contain enough obscenities to make Snow White blush forever after. Publishers of faulty textbooks should be trashed for littering the minds of our students with their trash.

Famished mind

The BEC gives to the three major subjects what it steals from other non-core subjects. It should have been laudable were it not for the fact that in order to give sustenance to English, Science and Math, other subjects will have to be starved to death or cannibalized.

To make a student proficient in a foreign language without inculcating in him a sense of national pride is to create citizens who are strangers in their own land. To satiate his mind with scientific facts without feeding his heart lessons that build character is to spawn a nation of androids.

Imagine, if you will, a clock without hands: we do not see time running out but it does, just the same. That is so like Philippine education: wasting before our very eyes without anybody seeing it. It is supposed to be the best of times for Filipino schoolchildren, but it is really the worst of times for them. It should already be the age of wisdom yet they are living in an age of utter foolishness. It is winter here in the gutter where Pepe and Pilar languish, while elsewhere it is morning and it is spring!

The BEC may be one poison driving out another, and the intended remedy may turn out to be worse that the disease itself. We must not make the mistake of throwing away the old bucket till we are sure the new one will hold water.

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Frail Pope insists on celebrating Easter rites

ROME—Pope John Paul II, for the first time not strong enough to walk with a cross in the Good Friday procession at the Colosseum, is insisting on celebrating Easter ceremonies, and the Vatican is setting up a special altar in St. Peter's Basilica so he won't have to climb many stairs.

In Friday night's solemn prayer service at the Colosseum, recalling the suffering of Jesus as his crucifixion approached, John Paul's own suffering was evident. He spoke in a weary voice, and for the first time in his 23-year-old papacy, didn't take any steps in the procession. As the ceremony neared its end, he did stand up to silently grip a cross for a few minutes that had been carried by other participants.

Increasingly frail, and suffering from lingering knee pain and symptoms of Parkinson's disease, John Paul ceded his place at several ceremonies during the Holy Week for the first time since becoming Pontiff in 1978, leaving the faithful to wonder if he would be able to hold up through an Easter vigil Mass Saturday night and another Mass on Easter Sunday.

"The Pope is better than he was at the beginning of Holy Week, so much so that tomorrow (Saturday) night and Sunday, it is foreseen that the Pope himself will celebrate" the Easter Masses, Monsignor Piero Marini, who assists John Paul at major public ceremonies, told Italian state TV as he awaited the Pontiff's arrival at the Colosseum for the candlelit Good Friday procession.

Because John Paul "doesn't want to give up" Saturday night's ceremony, "we'll try to avoid the steps that lead to the central altar of St. Peter's by constructing an altar at the foot" of the main altar, said Marini, who in these recent years often has shored up the Pope with a strong arm when the Pontiff's strength appeared to be waning in long ceremonies.

The Vatican hasn't said what caused the Pope to scale back his participation in Holy Week ceremonies, but said in February that arthrosis, a joint disease, in one of his knees, was to blame for the cancellation of several public appearances then.

Thousands of faithful, holding flickering candles, gathered in the night for the procession. John Paul used to walk the distance, carrying a wooden cross at the head of the procession. But last year, bowing to his age—John Paul turns 82 in May—and his ailments, including difficulty in walking since 1994 hip surgery—he only walked a short stretch.

This year, as the procession drew to a close, John Paul stood up from his chair on a rise overlooking the faithful and gripped the wooden cross. But he took no steps. His lips were pressed closed in what appeared to be prayerful concentration.

A crimson capelet over white robes offered some protection against the damp chill of the night.

AP

Megawati: N. Korea now ready for talks

SEOUL—North Korean leader Kim Jong-il responded "affirmatively" to a South Korean offer to resume stalled talks, Indonesia's president said Saturday after visiting the communist country.

"I delivered a message from President Kim Dae-jung, to which leader Kim Jong-il responded affirmatively," Megawati Sukarnoputri said at a joint news conference with the South Korean president.

South Korean officials had said the message she delivered to him was about an appeal for Pyongyang to revive talks with Seoul and Washington.

Megawati's statement was immediately taken as meaning that North Korea was willing to reopen talks with the United States as well as South Korea, but a Seoul official said he understood that it was about inter-Korean dialogue.

"She was explaining his (Kim Jong-il's) hope for open-hearted talks between South and North Korea," South Korean presidential national security adviser Yim Sung-joon said after the news conference.

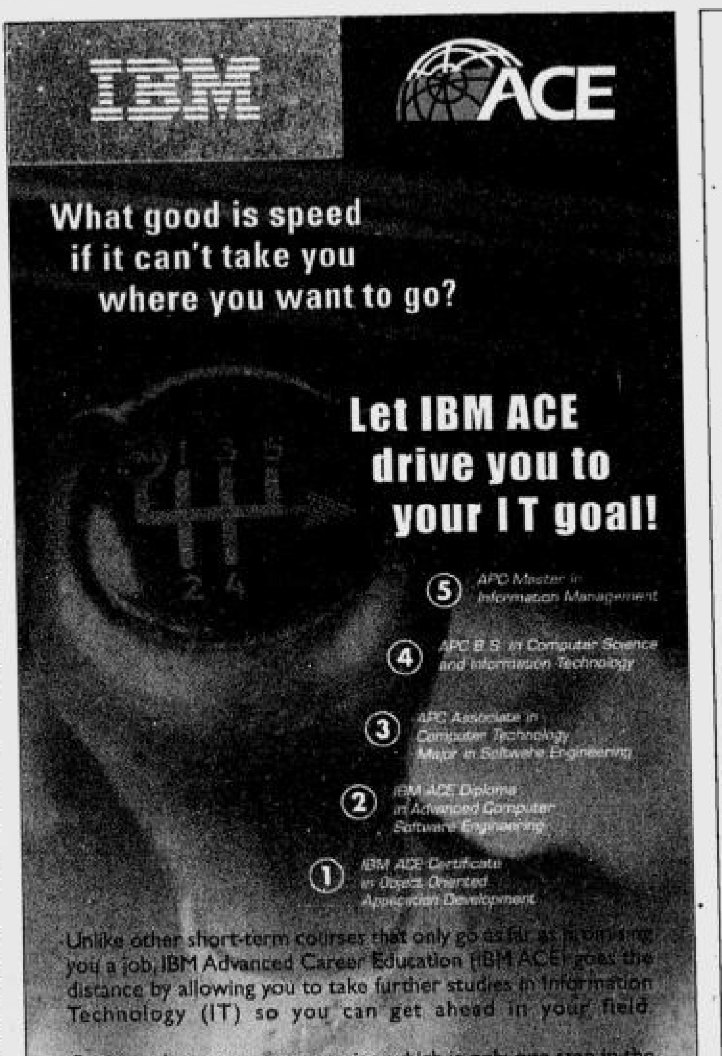
Asked whether Megawati was commenting on US-North Korea dialogue as well, Yim said he was not aware of that.

In Washington, state department spokesperson Fredrick Jones declined to comment on the issue.

South Korean President Kim Dae-jung lauded Megawati's diplomatic efforts.

"I expect South-North Korea relations to make a breakthrough at an early date, thanks to President Megawati's devoted cooperation and support," he said.

AP



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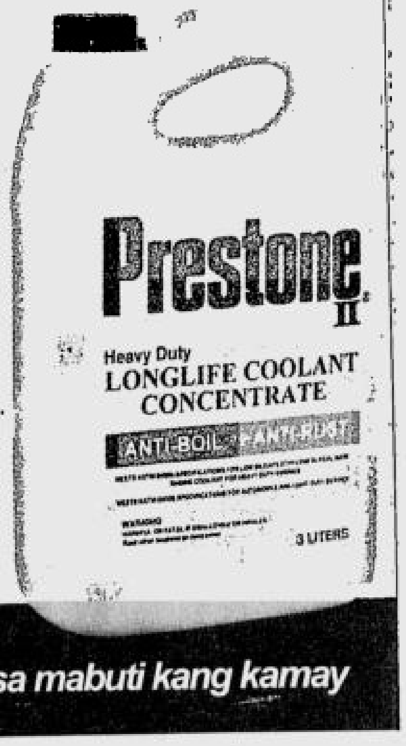

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0047, Series of 2002

Judge won't dismiss charges against men who praised attacks

NEW YORK—Judges ruling in separate cases have refused to dismiss charges against two defendants who allegedly praised the World Trade Center attacks and claimed their free-speech freedoms were violated by their arrests.

The judges said First Amendment rights to freedom of speech did not apply because the defendants knew their words were likely provoke anger or violence. Trials are pending.

Reggie Upshaw was charged with disorderly conduct and inciting a riot after allegedly praising the attacks to a crowd of about 50 people a few days after Sept. 11.

Authorities quoted Upshaw as saying: "It's good that the World Trade Center was bombed, More cops and firemen should have died. More bombs should have been dropped and more people should have been killed." Police said the crowd gathered around Upshaw and made threatening remarks.

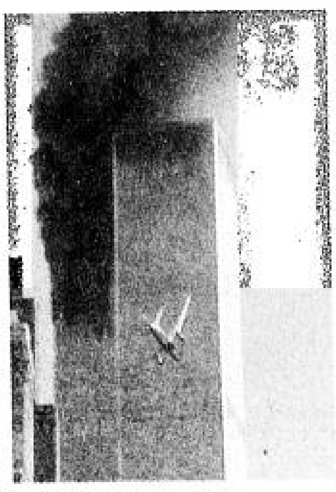
In a decision released Friday, Judge William Harrington ruled that the words "were plainly intended to incite the crowd to violence, and not simply to express a point of view."

In a similar case, William Harvey was arrested Oct. 4 near the trade center ruins after allegedly saying the attacks were revenge for US treatment of Islamic nations.

Dressed in military fatigues and holding a sign with Osama bin Laden's face superimposed over the twin towers, Harvey attracted a crowd of about 60 people, some of whom threatened to kill him, police said.

Judge Neil Ross ruled that the time and place of the speech made it reasonable to infer that Harvey knew "that public inconvenience, annoyance and alarm would result."

First Amendment lawyer Floyd Abrams said the defendants were expressing "political advocacy, detestable to almost all of us, but protected nonetheless." **AP**



WORLD TRADE CENTER

French researchers clone rabbits from adult cells

LOS ANGELES—French scientists say they have successfully cloned rabbits from adult cells for the first time.

The team produced six clones; four developed normally and two died. Two of the cloned offspring were later mated naturally, resulting in separate litters of seven and eight bunnies.

Scientists reported their results in the April issue of the journal Nature Biotechnology. The team was based at France's National Institute for Agriculture Research in Jouy-en-Josas.

To create the clones, the team removed the nucleus from one female's egg and fused it electrically with another adult rabbit's cumulus cell. The cumulus cell, which normally helps nurture eggs as they develop, contained separate genetic material that was replicated in the cloned offspring.

The team said cloning rabbits, when linked to the genetic modification of the donor cells, could enhance the species for use in biomedical research.

Currently, rabbits—which are more closely related to humans than are laboratory mice—are manipulated to produce human proteins for therapeutic uses. Future bio-engineered bunnies could further that role by serving as study models for human diseases, scientists said. **AP**

Militants attack temple

JAMMU, India—At least 10 people were killed when suspected Islamic militants attacked a 150-year-old Hindu temple in the winter capital of Indian-controlled Jammu-Kashmir state on Saturday, police said.

Two attackers, who alighted from a white van outside the temple in a crowded shopping district in Jammu and exploded several grenades, were among the dead, a police officer said on condition of anonymity.

The other fatalities were four policemen and four civilians.

Police said most of the wounded were civilians. Doctors at Government Medical College Hospital in Jammu said five of the injured were in critical condition.

Police were searching for another suspected militant who had driven the van.

One of the attackers carried a gun into the temple and had a shootout with security forces. He was found dead inside the temple afterward, said police. The other attacker was killed before he could enter the shrine, the officer said. **AP**

Teenager indicted in pa slay

LEESBURG, Virginia—A grand jury indicted a teenager on charges of murder and solicitation to murder in the slaying of her father, a scientist who was stabbed to death with a sword in December.

Clara Jane Schwartz, 19, had tried for months to persuade someone to kill Robert M. Schwartz, according to the indictment unsealed Friday. The indictment does not say whom she allegedly asked to carry out the crime.

Three of the teen's friends who shared an interest in fantasy and occult were indicted earlier on murder and conspiracy charges. Kyle Hulbert, 18, allegedly told detectives he attacked the biophysicist with a 69-cm sword because Clara Schwartz said her father had tried to hurt her.

Hulbert had a history of mental illness. Also implicated were Katherine Inglis, 19, and Michael Pfohl, 21. All the suspects were ordered held without bail. **AP**

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0579, Series of 2002.

Arafat calls up world leaders

From page A1

of State Colin Powell's support for the Israeli attack on Friday.

After launching the attack, Israel assured the United States that it had no plans to kill Arafat but merely wanted to isolate him. The Palestinian leader scoffed at the assurances of his safety, however.

"They have been shelling us continuously in the last 24 hours," Arafat said in a telephone interview with CNN, during which machine-gun fire could be heard in the background. "What do you think, it's by chance?"

"It is the real terrorism of the occupation," Arafat added. "They are using all the American weapons against us."

The United States supplies Israel with the bulk of its military hardware, from M-16 assault rifles to F-16 and F-15 warplanes and Apache attack helicopters.

Throughout Friday, Israeli tanks shelled buildings in the compound and soldiers entered buildings and traded fire with Palestinians.

Trapped

By nightfall, Arafat was trapped in his three-story office building, which had been plunged into darkness after soldiers cut off electricity and destroyed a generator. Phone links were blocked, leaving Arafat with only a cell phone to connect him with the outside world.

Arafat was in a windowless room, giving phone interviews to satellite TV channels and speaking by phone to more than a dozen world leaders. He pleaded for immediate international intervention, but was given no real promises, one of his aides said.

Among those the Palestinian leader spoke with were UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, Arab League leader Amr Moussa and Powell.

With a submachine-gun placed on the table in front of him, Arafat struck a defiant pose. "They want me under arrest or in exile or dead, but I am telling them, I prefer to be martyred," he said in a telephone interview with Al-Jazeera, the Arab satellite television channel.

In yet another interview, Arafat described Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon as "bloodthirsty" and bent on "blowing up" a collective Arab peace initiative endorsed only last Thursday.

He added that the United States "could have ordered him (Sharon) to end the attacks. Why are they quiet despite all that is taking place?"

First stage

Israeli officials described the Ramallah operation as the first stage of a much larger assault aimed at destroying the "terrorist infrastructure" that Israelis blame for the hundreds of deaths they have suffered in 18 months of relentless violence.

More than a thousand Palestinians have also died.

The latest escalation began with a suicide bombing Wednesday in an Israeli hotel banquet hall that killed 22 diners during a Passover Seder, the ritual meal at the start of the week-long Jewish holiday.

It was followed by attacks on two Jewish settlements Thursday and Friday that killed six Israelis.

On Friday morning, after an all-night session, Sharon's Cabinet declared Arafat an "enemy" and said the Palestinian leader would be completely isolated. Israel began calling up reserve soldiers, a mobilization expected to reach 20,000 troops, the largest in a decade.

Hours later, Israeli troops and two dozen tanks swarmed into Arafat's walled compound—an area the size of a city block with a jumble of several interconnected buildings, surrounded by a high wall with three gates.

The Israeli attack coincided with another Palestinian suicide bombing, as an 18-year-old woman blew herself up in a Jerusalem supermarket, killing two people and wounding at least 20. The attack, claimed by the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, a group linked to Arafat's Fatah group, was the second such suicide bombing carried out by a Palestinian woman.

In Friday's assault, Palestinian Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo said heavy tank and gunfire hit the building's first and third floors—the first time Israel directly targeted the building. Arafat's office and sleeping quarters are on the second floor.

Israeli snipers took positions on rooftops, and tanks shelled the intelligence headquarters in the complex.

Israeli troops broke into structures adjacent to Arafat's offices and punched holes in walls, moving room to room toward his building.

At one point, they broke through a wall into the office building itself and traded fire with Palestinians through the hole, the Palestinians said.

But the military said its soldiers did not enter the building. Maj. Gen. Yitzhak Eitan, commander of Israeli troops in the West Bank, said troops were in control of the whole compound except Arafat's offices. He said large amounts of weapons were found and about 60 people were detained. But Abed Rabbo told CNN those detained were unarmed, mostly secretaries and drivers.

Second day

On the second day of the siege, Israeli troops traded fire with Palestinian security forces shooting from a commercial building in Ramallah, witnesses said. Israeli forces also fired tank shells.

A Reuters cameraman saw several Israeli armed vehicles, including a tank, in the center of the Palestinian town of Beit Jala between Jerusalem and biblical Bethlehem after an incursion by an armored column early yesterday.

Palestinian security officials of Beit Jala said an Israeli armored column did enter early yesterday morning but did not immediately move on to Bethlehem itself.

Troops exchanged fire with local gunmen, but there were no immediate reports of casualties.

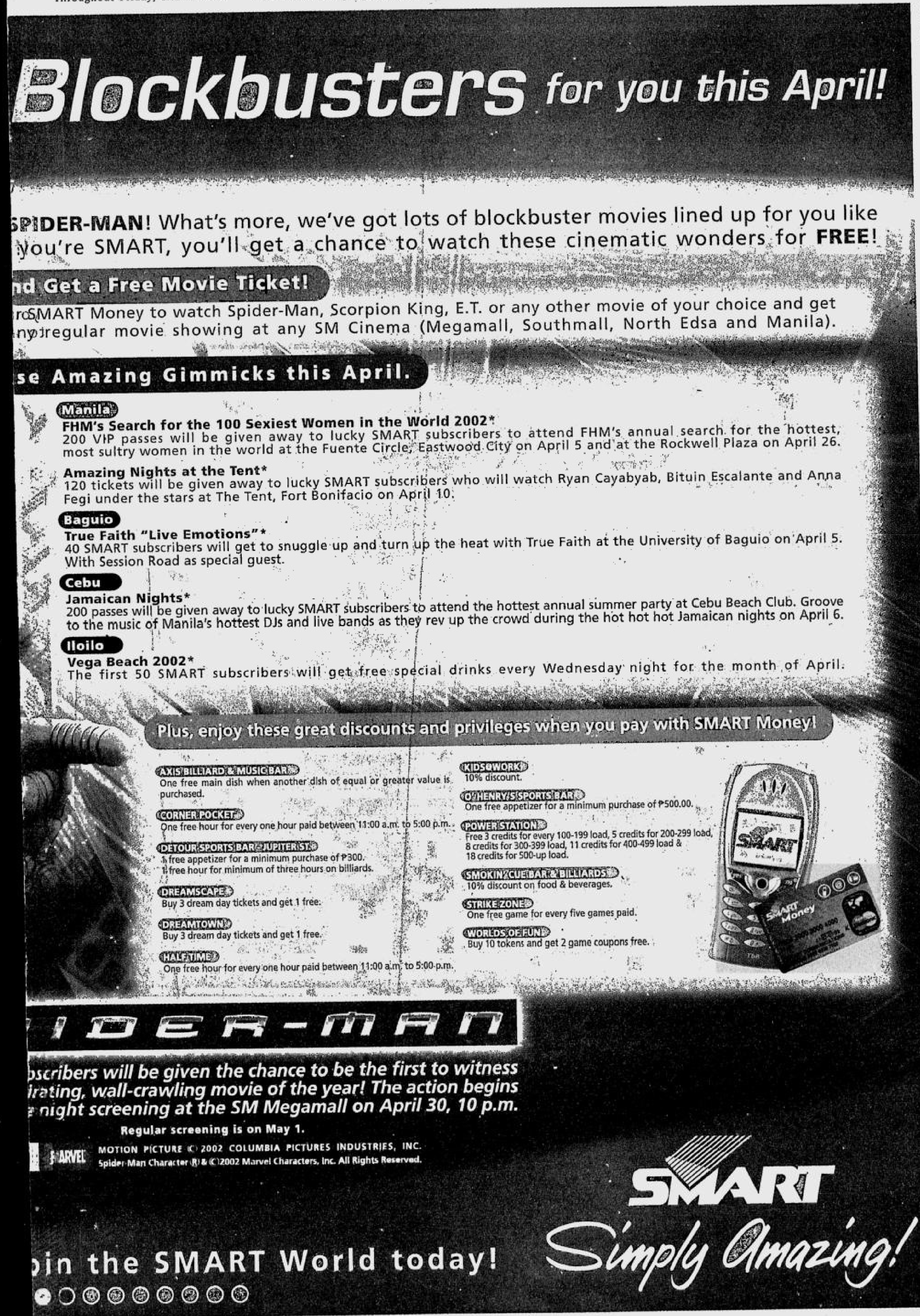
An Israeli army statement said it had seized several positions in Beit Jala in the incursion to prevent Palestinians from firing on the nearby Jewish settlement of Gilo, which Israel considers a Jerusalem neighborhood, and at its soldiers nearby.

The statement said soldiers also entered Palestinian territory near the West Bank town of Nablus and arrested a suspected militant from the radical Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Near Lions Square in downtown Ramal-lah, a six-story building was in flames and thick black smoke rose to the sky.

Dozens of Israeli tanks and armored personnel carriers were stationed all over the city, totally under control of the Israeli army for the second day running.

From streets choked with tear gas to royal palaces, Arabs across the Middle East roundly condemned the Israeli attack. Egyptian and Palestinian officials said Israel's latest actions amounted to a declaration of war. ***Reports from AP, AFP and Reuters***



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WHERE HAS THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND RELIGION GONE?

Shocking and alarming was the Temporary Restraining Order **(TRO)** issued by RTC-Branch 76, Quezon City issued on March 22, 2002 stopping the scheduled debate between the *Ang Dating Daan* **(ADD)** and a break-away group of the *Iglesia ni Cristo* **(INC)** set at 9:00 PM, March 22, 2002 over Southern Broadcast Network 21 **(SBN 21).**

The Court Order stopping the debate was issued in response to the request *(Ex-Parte Motion for Issuance of the TRO)* filed by the INC on the ground that the INC did not authorize anybody or anyone to engage in a debate with Bro. Eliseo Soriano, presiding minister of the ADD. An ***"ex-parte motion"*** means a one-sided request by a party without notice to the other party nor giving the other party a chance to oppose the request or motion.

The ex-parte motion was mainly based on the March 22, 2002 tabloid newspaper ***RP Daily Expose.*** It published a front-page banner article, which announcement and publication ADD had nothing to do with, to wit:

> *"Dios ba o tao si Kristo?*
> **INC-ADD DEBATE NGAYON!**
> **Ni Jun Adsuara"**

The ***RP Daily Expose*** Newspaper announced that there would be a scheduled debate at 9:00 PM in a live telecast over SBN 21 on March 22, 2002. The first four paragraphs of the news report read as follows:

> "TAO ba o Diyos si Kristo?
>
> Ito ang issue na pagdedebatehan ng "Ang Dating Daan" (ADD) at ng breakaway group ng Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) ngayong gabi sa SBN-21.
>
> Ang makakadebate ni Brother Eli Soriano, spiritual leader ng ADD, ay si Willie del Rosario, ***leader ng INC breakaway group.*** (Emphasis ours)
>
> Ang debate na magsisimula ganap na alas-9:00 ng gabi ay gaganapin sa Strata Building sa Ortigas Avenue, Pasig."

The report continues in part....

> "Ayon kay Bro. Emil Magdaraog, si Del Rosario ang unang humamon kay Soriano na magdebate sila hinggil sa magkasalungat nilang mga aral.
>
> "Walang problema kung friendly debate," ayon kay Soriano."

SO WHY DID THE COURT ISSUE A TRO?

Since the newspaper report clearly stated that the debate was between ADD and a break-away group (meaning, former members of Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) headed by Willie del Rosario) what then is the legal basis to grant the one-sided request of the INC to stop the debate? There certainly was no misrepresentation that the debaters were authorized by the INC since the debate would be participated in only by the former members of the INC.

Every Filipino has the right to express his religious views on any religious doctrine whether he is a present member of or a former member of any religious organization. The freedom to ***think, believe, speak*** pursuant to that belief, are fundamental rights deeply rooted and enshrined in our Constitution. They enjoy the highest respect and strongest protection of our laws because without the ***freedom of speech*** and ***freedom of worship and religion,*** there can be no true democracy.

Our 1987 Philippine Constitution, ***Article III, Bill of Rights,*** provides that:

> Sec. 4. No law shall be passed abridging the freedom of speech, of expression, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and petition the government for redress of grievances.
>
> Sec. 5. No law shall be made respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. The free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship, without discrimination, shall forever be allowed. No religious test shall be required for the exercise of civil or political rights.

One of the greatest Justices of the United States Supreme Court, ***Mr Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes,*** wrote in one of the most important decisions in the United States,

> ***"But when men have realized that time has upset many fighting faiths, they may come to believe even more than they believe the very foundations of their own conduct that the ultimate good desired is better reached by free trade in ideas—that the best test of truth is the power of the thought to get itself accepted in the competition of the market, and that truth is the only ground upon which their wishes safely can be carried out."*** [Abrams v. United States, 250 U.S. 619 (1919)]

This principle was followed and respected by our Philippine Supreme Court.

For a court to issue an Order ***stopping*** a public debate such as that scheduled on March 22, 2002 between the ADD the INC break-away group, and ***preventing*** the public to watch and listen and learn from this intellectual discourse will effectively ***deny*** the public and the debaters their right to ***freedom of speech*** and their ***right to know*** and ***be informed*** on matters vital to their spiritual faith. The court or the government would be treading on dangerous ground as it will be exercising arbitrary ***censorship power*** over religion which is not given to them by the Constitution.

We pray that the Court, after hearing the ADD side with these published arguments and more, would reverse itself and ultimately lift the TRO when the case is called for hearing for the first time in the coming days.

ATTY. LEONARD DE VERA
Counsel for Bro. Eli Soriano
and the ADD (Ang Dating Daan)
Unit Penthouse B,
Windsor Tower Condominium
No. 163 Legazpi Street,
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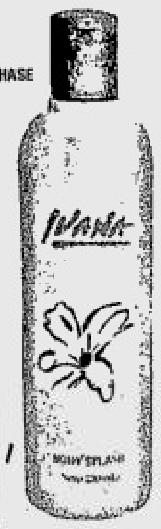

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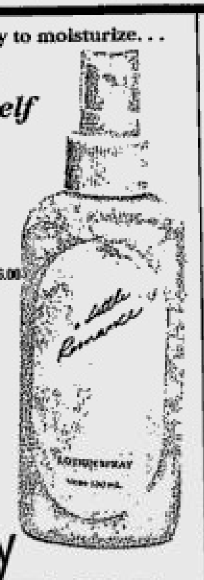

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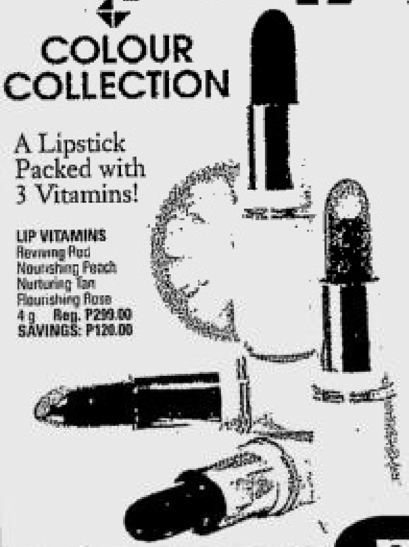

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17 penitents crucified in Pampanga village

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Sixteen men and one woman were nailed to the cross on Good Friday in Barangay San Pedro Cutud here, the biggest batch of penitents who joined the village's crucifixion rite since the 1970s, local officials said.

At least seven men were first-timers. The rest have practiced the *panata* (vow) for two to 15 years, according to Zoilo Castro, Cutud barangay captain.

"It's only now that we had 17 (penitents)," he told the INQUIRER.

Since the village reenacted the crucifixion, first by tying ropes around the wrists and ankles in the 1950s up to the late 1960s, and then by piercing the palms and feet with three-inch nails during the succeeding decades, Castro said the number of participants had not gone beyond 15.

"This (batch) is record-breaking," he said, pointing to the growing popularity of the Lenten devotion, which has been discouraged by the Catholic Church.

Village officials estimated the crowd at the 2-hectare field at more than 20,000.

According to Castro, those who joined the rite for the first time were Dionisio Dancil, Efren Balinas and his brother Louren from the Visayas, Elmer Baking, Rolando Turla, Joel Ortega and Angelito Manansala.

Manansala, who claims to be a faith healer from the Bulaon resettlement site in Pampanga, was the last to register for the crucifixion. He signed up at about 9 a.m.

He claimed to have dreamt of the crucified Christ on the night of Maundy Thursday. He said he took it as a sign that "God was encouraging me to follow the sacrifice."

Zarte Cuenco, leader of the Nazareno Lourdes Fatima cult based in Barangay Matatalaib in Tarlac City, joined for the second time.

Many veterans continued their vows. Rolan Ocampo, Romelito Vergara, Victor Caparas, Romeo Sarmiento, Ramil Lazaro, Arnold Maniago, Ruben Enaje and the lone woman, Amparo Santos, have been doing the sacrifice for 10 or 15 years, Castro said.

Enaje, who played the role of Christ in the reenactment of the Way of the Cross, was crucified for the 16th time.

Santos, from Guguinto town in Bulacan, continued to break what used to be an all-male tradition.

The gender divide, however, persisted. On her 15th year, she preferred to be nailed on top of a makeshift stage, with three metal crosses for a backdrop, next to a hill where the main event was held for her male counterparts.

CRUCIFIXION in Pampanga: Record number of participants on Good Friday.
EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Unlike the men who went with the nailing ritual mutely, Santos, also called by her followers as Mother Paring, exhorted the crowd to pray and sing the Lord's Prayer for national peace and unity.

She improvised one religious song from a popular ditty of the 1960s.

Unlike the men who wrapped red cloth or white *katsa* on their waists, Santos wore a white-laced gown and a silver cross necklace.

All, however, did not hide their fright before they were nailed and raised on the cross in batches of three. The entire rite was over before 3 p.m.

Ocampo, on his 12th year, chose to be nailed when the noisy crowd had left.

In Bulacan's Paombong and Guiguinto towns, reports said six people were also crucified on Friday. ***With a report from Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Kidnappers abandon hotelier in Sarangani

By Aquiles Z. Zonio
and Edwin O. Fernandez
PDI Mindanao Bureau

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Hotelier Carlos Belonio was released by his captors in Barangay Lun Masla, Malapatan, Sarangani, at around 6 a.m. on Friday, the military said yesterday.

Both military and police officials said no ransom was paid for the businessman's freedom.

The release came a few hours after soldiers encountered members of the group that snatched him and Korean Jae Kyon-yoon on Feb. 6.

Jae has remained in the hands of the kidnappers, led by Tigre Jakiri, a Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebel based in Palembang, Sultan Kudarat.

Tigre's group snatched Belonio and Jae while the two were on their way to Palembang town to buy nickel babbitts from a group of treasure hunters.

The kidnappers have demanded P30 million in exchange of the victims' freedom.

Palembang Mayor Labualas Mamansual said that before Belonio was released, a military intelligence report already indicated that the kidnappers would transfer one of their victims to Malapatan.

Col. Pedrito Magsino, commander of the Army's 601st Infantry Brigade said

KIDNAPPERS/ p.17

Man continues vow to nail penitents on Good Friday

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The man who nailed countless men to the cross every Good Friday beamed with pride as he religiously fulfilled his vow for 13 years now.

At 11 a.m. on Friday, Ricardo "Boy" Carreon, 51, was holding his hammer as he waited for the 17 *kristos* (Christs) on top of the dusty makeshift Golgotha (Calvary) in the middle of a rice field in Barangay San Pedro Cutud here.

He was likened to a Roman soldier eager to crucify those who went against the will of Caesar.

Carreon crucified most of the 17 *kristos* on wooden crosses as part of the annual Via Crusis (Way of the Cross) here to commemorate the passion and death of Jesus Christ.

Each gentle stroke of his hammer brought pain and suffering to Ruben Enaje, 42, who took over the role of Christ this year from Chito Sangalang, a fish vendor, who led the crucifixion ritual here for 15 years.

The blows from Carreon's hammer caused the same agonizing effect on the other *kristos*.

"I have been a flagellant since I was 16 years old to continue the vow of my parents. But in 1989 I started to nail the penitents in the Via Crusis after my uncle died of hepatitis," he said.

He said only few people would like to perform his role for fear that it would bring them bad luck.

"Those who used to crucify penitents had died of sickness, other people were afraid that they too would get sick and die. But why should I be afraid? Of course, anybody could get sick and die," he said.

Carreon said he would continue to do his duty in the annual Via Crusis as long as he lives.

Shinichiro Kaneko, a Japanese who introduced himself as a brother of a cancer victim in Japan, asked to be allowed to join in the voluntary crucifixion. He was among the *kristos* nailed by Carreon.

It turned out, however, that the Japanese had only used the Good Friday ritual here for a movie, according to village chief Zoilo Castro Jr.

Carreon said when he nailed penitents to the cross, he made sure the stainless spikes would not hurt the latter's bones or major veins.

He and his wife Aiding, 48, have six children: Irene, 23; Ryan, 19; Joy, 15; Cris, 14; April, 13; and Aica, 9.

His eldest son, Dennis, died in 1997 of a kidney ailment at 22.

Carreon also dismissed rumors that some penitents wanted to be nailed in exchange for cash. "This is not true. (The penitents) do not receive payments. Tourists give them donations because they know that (the penitents) will not be able to work because of their wounds." ***Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon and Visayas will experience partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms. Meanwhile, Mindanao will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi 35° Lo 22°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 27° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 35° Lo 26°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 35° Lo 22°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 21°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 26°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 25°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Mostly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 26°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Davao	Mostly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Chona Galang, PDI Research/03/31/02

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Shrine eyed at plane crash site

By Ayan C. Mellejor
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—The crash site of Air Philippines Flight 541 in the Island Garden City of Samal is being developed into a religious shrine.

Samal Mayor Rogelio Antalan said the 2,000-square-meter area in Barangay Camudmud will be open to the public.

Earlier, relatives of the 131 people who died in the crash on April 19, 2000 planted trees in the area to commemorate the tragedy.

Since then, visitors have frequented the area, especially during the Holy Week. Flight 541 crashed on a Holy Wednesday.

Antalan said the local government has asked architect Chito Gavino to draw the plan for the religious shrine.

Gavino, former administrator of Davao del Norte, said he was thinking of an area where visitors could meditate.

"My concept is a meditation mountain where we (can) turn the tragedy into a victory so that the death of the passengers would become meaningful to all of us," Gavino told reporters during a forum here before the Lenten break.

Under the proposal, Gavino said an ecumenical chapel would be constructed at the crash site.

"It will be a combination of tourism and religious activities," he said.

Antalan said he would aggressively pursue the plan because the three owners of the land have offered it for use of the city government.

Nun uses epic chants for evangelism

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The stories of Jesus share the same epic quality as prehistoric legends about valiant Igorot ancestors.

This insight jolted retired Catholic missionary, Sr. Beata Balaso, two years ago as she contemplated the renaissance of genuine, redeeming spirituality in the Cordillera highlands.

Balaso, 61, had been obsessed about preserving her own childhood lore, itself rooted in spiritual tradition that she was forced to set aside due to creeping prejudice from European missionaries who introduced her to Christian devotion in the 1950s.

"I am an Igorot and I usually tell my fellow Igorots that our culture offers very Christian values so it should not be condemned. But the culture was not accepted by the European missionaries. It was a struggle for me as a young nun because I did not like the way (Igorot culture) was being treated during that period," she said.

When she realized that her personal bible presented the same pageantry and majesty of the Igorot epics, Balaso proceeded to finance a series of recordings on prehistoric Kalinga melodies called the "*ullalim*."

The *ullalim* was made in the same fashion that European monks recorded the celebrated Gregorian chants in the 1990s.

Ullalims are rhythmic chants peculiar only to Igorot storytellers, who must be the oldest and wisest among a Kalinga tribe, Balaso explained.

Like the "Gregorian Chants" album, Balaso's experimental album, "*Se Ugud Kabuniyan Narpuan Biag* (Of God's Word, Source of Life)," dwells on traditional biblical canons.

Youth market

But she sang the verses in a cryptic dialect that is unfamiliar to the younger generation of Igorots.

Yet her *ullalim* had been capturing its own market among a young generation, many of them joined the protest actions that helped topple then President Joseph Estrada from power.

SR. BEATA Balaso: An Igorot tradition becomes her defense against religious prejudice.
EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Balaso raised about P100,000 in 2000 to produce "*Se Ugod Kabuniyan Narpuan Biag.*" It was distributed just as the political crisis climaxed with Estrada's impeachment trial that led to his fall.

The album was patronized by a Christian evangelical circuit here and in Europe because it offered ethereal hymns that translate epic Igorot history into biblical stories without sacrificing its original heroism and redemptive plot line.

But word of mouth now sells this album as a Filipino version of "Gregorian Chants," the recording of Latin prayers sang in perfectly pitched harmony by monks in Europe, which made the Billboard 100 chart in the 1990s.

A second album called "*Sugsugna* (Advice)" is being produced, and a third—a reproduction of the authentic *ullalim*, which is a dying Igorot tradition—is being planned, Balaso said.

No gimmick

The *ullalim* is not a convenient gimmick, said Balaso, a member of the missionary order Sisters of the Immaculate Heart.

She said she embarked on the projects to revive and preserve the melodic storytelling tool used by Kalinga, Mt. Province and Abra tribes to preserve legends and mythologies about the Igorots' prehistory.

One of Balaso's vivid childhood memories was a gathering of some 30 clan members who came to listen to an elder preach the prehistoric conquests and the glorious honor of Ba'na, a Kalinga epic hero.

"I was not yet 10 years old. I could not understand the words because the old women or men sing them slurred and you cannot decipher them. But you will listen because these always spoke of fantastic legends about the Igorot people.

These also offered hope that is very Biblical, and that is why these can be relevant today to even young Igorots. But, of course, these were popular at a period when there was no television or movies," she said.

Ba'na shares the tragicomic divinity and humanity of the Ilocano epic hero Lam-ang or the Greek's Odysseus, according to Kalinga historian, the late Fr. Francis Lambrecht.

Ba'na fought wars and monsters, and sired glorious Kalinga family lines to protect the values and humanity of his tribe, Lambrecht wrote in his book "Kalinga Ullalim."

Balaso said Ba'na's epic divinity has been replaced in the "*Se Ugud*" album by Jesus Christ, and this had not altered the substance of the *ullalim*.

For Balaso, the *ullalim* represented the few Igorot traditions which European missionaries had not frowned upon when they undertook evangelical missions in northern Cordillera.

She said the *ullalim* became her defense against religious prejudices that had lumped the storytelling skill with other vestiges of Igorot "primitivism" and "savagery."

But Igorot culture also prevented her from documenting the tradition 40 years ago.

"I am a good imitator and I often sang the *ullalim* by a riverbank, away from people. I was young, and you are ridiculed if you sing it at that age. You have to be old to sing it. I almost forgot it. But now that I am in my 60s, every word, every (nuance) had come back. I can sing it and no one will laugh," she said.

"I am not a good singer, of course. I remember an uncle who had a very good voice, and he would chant the *ullalim* with such a heavy baritone it was enchanting. I am a novice compared to him. But I realized that I am one of a very few today who even understand or is interested in the *ullalim*, so it has become my mission to preserve it also," Balaso said.

Kidnappers . . .

(From page 16)

his unit immediately coordinated with the police and put up checkpoints along the highway in Malapatan to intercept the victim and his captors.

Senior Supt. Cesar Daquil, Sarangani police director, told reporters here that the kidnappers abandoned Belonio in a bridge in Barangay Lun Masla in Malapatan.

He said the kidnappers brought the hotelier from Palembang to Malapatan on board a motorized banca.

From the shore, the victim was ordered to ride on a motorcycle for transfer to another group of kidnappers.

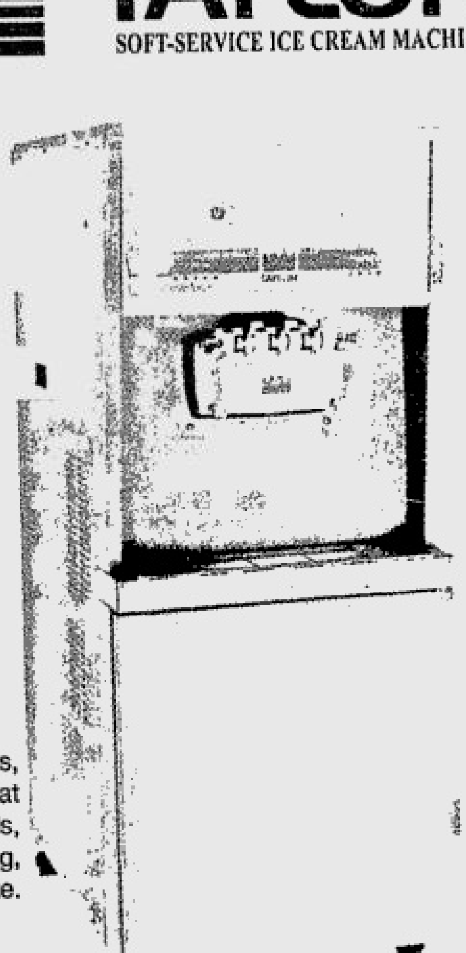
However, Daquil said that along the way, the kidnappers saw the massive police and military deployment and were forced to abandon the victim.

Belonio was immediately brought to a hospital. "He appeared weak, but I believe he's okay," Magsino said.

Magsino said the military was still scouring the hinterlands of Palembang to locate the group holding Jae.

He said that based on Belonio's account, the kidnappers split into several groups and that he and Jae were separated from each other.

Magsino said the military has actually encountered Jae's captors a few hours before Belonio was released.



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INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jun Bandayrel ◎ Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

Surigao City's mysterious King's Throne

By Ramon Jorge B. Sarabosing

Surigao City

AS IN PAST summers, Surigao City's islands, islets and coves dazzle. I should know. For years, I have hopped from island to island, islet to islet, hidden coves to another, and have ended up wishing summer would never end.

TRAVEL & TOURISM

I'm the city's islands' No. 1 fan.

There's one place I would recommend to visitors. Surprisingly though, it's not a beach but a cave—a fascinating and mysterious one—called Buenavista on the island of Hikdop. It faces the city directly and is only 30 minutes by boat.

The best part is, one gets the best of both worlds here. The cave is just above a beautiful private cove. White sand, limestone hills and depths ideal for practice diving and snorkeling. A concrete cottage is tucked in the corner.

You start following a footpath leading to the cave. It is not even that far. Before you know it, you are in front of its wide entrance as quickly as you realize you're in the vicinity of a limestone hill forest. You must not forget to bring a reliable flashlight or you'll end up a pathetic loser.

Like any other cave, you enter a hollow chamber with biting cold. It's eerie and sometimes you would want to go back, but you follow a rugged path that gradually narrows until you begin clambering on uneven, tight passageways.

The smell of the sea sifts through while you carefully negotiate along limestone walls, stalactites and stalagmites.

For half a kilometer, you wonder if there is no end until you encounter streaks of lights from the roof. Find a spot and take time to breathe as you watch this magical invasion.

Finally, toward a narrow chamber and knee-deep pond, you reach the highlight—the mysterious King's Throne. An unbelievably sculptured giant rock formation of what seems like a royal chair.

A GIANT rock formation inside a cave resembles a royal chair.

RAMON JORGE SARABOSING

If you sit on it without asking permission, who knows what risks you take? Remember, the spirits also need respect.

When we took some photographs, someone said we may be wasting film because it may not come out, I ask for permission in silence, actually more of a prayer.

We inched our way back. Ten minutes from the mouth of the cave, we found ourselves splashing at the sparkling azure waters. If only cave visits are this rewarding!

Malaysian doc keeps coming back for medical mission

By Maria Cecil B. Laguardia

Contributor

HE is often asked: "Aren't you afraid of getting kidnapped in Mindanao?" He just answers with a smile and an unaffected shrug as if to say it's not fated, it won't happen.

Tugging a baggage of medical instruments, he walked confidently at the Davao International Airport, unmindful of the raging newspaper headlines about Mindanao around him. He looked at home.

At this time when foreigners avoid Mindanao like a plague, Dr. Angamuthu "Anga" Rajoo of Johor Bahru, Malaysia, flew back to Koronadal City in South Cotabato via Davao City to fulfill a promise.

He was to conduct a follow-up operation on Grace, a severely burned girl whom he first operated on last year.

Grace, an Ilongga from Koronadal, was burned in the face and the whole body when she was a baby. She pulled a tablecloth with a gas lamp on it.

A bright girl, she ignored her classmates' teasing and continued her schooling. Her persistence and sunny disposition have been reinforced after meeting Anga, who gave her hope by operating on her physical deformity.

For three straight years, the doctor kept coming back until her condition improved.

Anga's wife Umadevi, a nurse, is worried, of course, what with stories about war in the Philippines that are often seen on the front pages of newspapers and splashed on TV screens. But Anga trusts his Filipino friends regarding his safety.

Three years ago, Anga, a member of the Rotary Club of Johor Bahru and one of the 30 renowned plastic and cosmetic surgeons in Malaysia, went with a team of doctors to Koronadal to conduct free harelip and cleft palate operations as part of a medical mission.

The activity was arranged by Oliver Hennedige, past president of the Rotary Club of Singapore which is a sister club of the Rotary Club of Marbel, through the Rotary's World Community Service program.

In Koronadal, Anga met Grace whose badly deformed face and body touched his heart. A series of operations have to be done to remedy her situation and he kept returning, at his own personal expense, to operate on her. His Rotary club also pitched in to shoulder his travel and other surgical expenses.

'Family' in Marbel

Since then, Anga's life has been intertwined with those of members of RC Marbel whom he now considers "a family." He was amazed at how such a small club of 36 members can become a band of community workers concerned with the plight of harelip and cleft palate patients.

Close bonding was developed between him and club past president Fred dela Peña, president Puyot Calixton, incoming president Rolan Alajar and vice president Roland Asperga. Mixing community service with jokes and fun has prompted him to look forward to his next trips in the country.

One downside of his stay is that it continuous to amaze (and shock) him how drivers maneuver their vehicles on the road. "I would never drive in this country," he says with exasperation.

Referring to the tricycles that abound in Koronadal, he commented that "there are so many motor cabs here." In Malaysia, he said, public conveyance is composed mainly of mass transport vehicles, like buses, taxis and trains to minimize traffic jams.

He commends the active participation of the Anns (spouses of Rotarians) who all took time from their businesses and offices to give support for two days during Grace's operation, and program chair Dr. Benjamin Pajaro, an ENT specialist, for "doing a good job and organizing the program so well."

Together with Dr. Pajaro, the club's chair on the Adopt-A-Harelip Program, Dr. Camilo Dajay, Dr. Dale Ello and Dr. Reuel Magan, they were able to operate on 14 patients from South Cotabato and neighboring provinces.

Workaholic

A hard worker who wants to make full use of his time, Anga was able to complete nine surgeries in 14 hours non-stop. When asked how he did it, he simply said, "I love to work."

His competence and expertise were admired by staff members of the Lourdes Clinic and Hospital, where the operation took place. He is very humble, friendly and accommodating, but is very strict and exact in the operating room. The doctors who assisted him felt privileged to have learned from him.

DR. Angamuthu "Anga" Rajoo, of Johor Bahru, Malaysia, inspires doctors and staff personnel inside hospital operating room in Koronadal City.

The Adopt-A-Harelip Program of RC Marbel has been going on for the past 15 years as its flagship program. Hundreds of harelip patients have become beneficiaries of the program.

For this year, a matching grant from the Rotary International, through the help of the Rotary Club of Singapore, was approved and released, thus enabling the club to accommodate more patients who cannot afford the operation, much less the services of specialists, which amount to about P20,000.

Family roots

Anga's life is as remarkable as his achievements. He came from a "very poor" family of Tamils (a tribe from India). From a small town of Tamil Nadu, his grandparents moved to the town of Kajang in Selangor province in Malaysia and worked in rubber plantations.

With seven brothers and sisters, he grew up working as a laborer in plantations. Without encouragement from anybody, he realized he wanted to go to school and finish a degree. He just had enough of the poverty that his family had endured for generations.

"It just occurred on me that I should get an education," he said.

Under the government's free education program, he breezed through school and proceeded to pursue a medical degree at the prestigious University of Malaysia. After completing the course, he specialized in plastic and cosmetic surgery at the Royal Adelaide University in Australia for another three years.

He worked as a government employee for 10 years and moved on to private practice. He now has his own clinic in Johor Bahru and is active in promoting education among poor Indian children.

He joins other international projects of his club and is scheduled to go to Sri Lanka and Sabah in Malaysia for a medical mission.

Marbel Rotarians are proud to have known Anga. His concern for Grace and the rest of the burn patients, as well as the harelip and cleft palate patients, more than makes him a Filipino at heart.

His compassion and determination to help beyond geographical barriers are matched by his name. In Tamil, "*Anga*" means "body" and "*Muthu*" means "pearl." This easily translates to someone who is firm enough to achieve his dreams and pure enough to serve.

Writing through e-mail from Johor Bahru, he said, "Not many people will get an opportunity to be of service to the many unfortunate patients, but I am one of the lucky ones, thanks to your club. I hope to be able do continue doing it."

Summa cum laude graduate wants to teach

By Christine Godinez-Ortega

Iligan City

THIS summa cum laude physics graduate wants to be a teacher.

BALILI: Aspires to win Nobel Prize.

While many graduates yearn of working and earning more abroad, 21-year-old Ryan Balili of Polomolok, South Cotabato, believes that serving his country first is his top priority.

It is likewise his way of paying back the government as a Department of Science and Technology-Science Institute scholar in college.

With conviction and plenty of enthusiasm, he said, "There is hope within ourselves." At the same time, he believes that it is possible for the country to catch up with its more technologically advanced neighbors.

"This may not happen in my generation, but the next generation of Filipinos will eventually enjoy the advances in technology of First World countries," he said.

In order to be a better teacher, Ryan hopes to win a Carnegie-Mellon scholarship so he can take up post-graduate studies in the United States and do research in condensed matter physics to "help improve our country's technology."

Einstein fan

Listening to this young man tell us of his plans, one would not find it difficult to be convinced about the seriousness of his intentions when he revealed that he would like to win the Nobel Prize in Physics someday like his idol, Albert Einstein.

Unlike his two siblings, Ryan chose to study at the MSU-IIT in spite of his passing the entrance examinations for the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, and the Ateneo de Manila University.

His brother Ezer is taking up Computer Management at the Letran College, while his sister Meryl is pursuing an Economics degree at the University of Sto. Tomas.

Detesting Metro Manila's traffic and hoping to ease the financial burden of his parents because of a "higher standard of living" there, this English-speaking young man preferred semi-rural Iligan City, "with its pools and waterfalls" which "remind me of my hometown Polomolok."

In Polomolok, his electrical engineer father works for Dole Philippines, a giant pineapple company. His mother manages a pawnshop in Sarangani.

Topnotcher

Ryan had consistently topped his elementary and high school classes as valedictorian at the Dole Philippine School in Polomolok. He triplicated this feat last Wednesday when he graduated valedictorian among 1,253 graduates of the Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology with an average grade of 1.13. He is the second physics major to graduate summa cum laude from the MSU-IIT since it was founded in 1968.

A debater and a lover of literature, Ryan plays the piano and the guitar, and loves to swim. As a student, he was elected governor of the MSU-IIT College of Sciences and Mathematics Executive Student Committee and president of the DOST Scholars Association.

All these made college life for Ryan memorable although he had his share of problems with, of all government agencies, the DOST. As president of 300 DOST-MSU-IIT scholars, he would be especially concerned when their monthly and book allowances are not received on time.

Full scholars receive a total of P4,250 in allowances each month. Because of his parents' income levels, Ryan received only half the amount every month from the DOST.

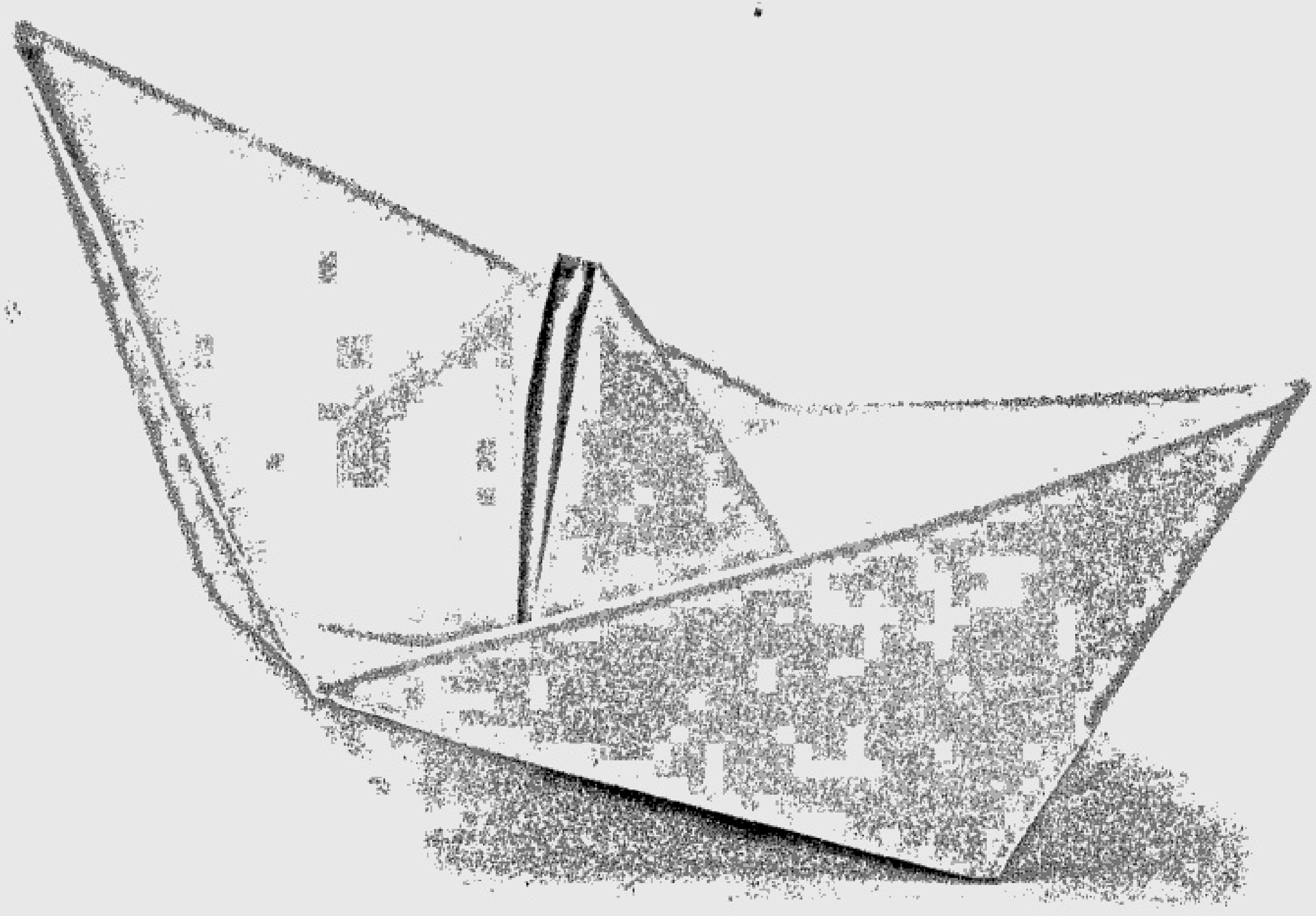
Once, Ryan narrated, the delay reached about six months. When he noticed that his fellow scholars "were getting thin," he wrote a letter of complaint to the DOST, but he said, laughing, "I did not get a reply!"

Credits

In spite of the bureaucratic hassles, Ryan still believes in the government's educational system. For his feat, he credits his teachers, as well as the modern equipment and facilities of the MSU-IIT, a state institution which was awarded the Commission on Higher Education's Center of Excellence in Physics.

Sharp and introspective, Ryan wondered aloud if he "might change" if he studies abroad because he might get "to like First World amenities."

But turning thoughtful once more, he assured us, "I'll be back to teach physics and make it fun to my fellow Filipinos!"



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Rico sang to 'woman out of my life'

From page A1

JAMPACKED wake for Rico Yan at the La Salle Greenhills where a fan shows a scrapbook full of the photos of her dearly departed.

JESS YUSON

"He was very much against drugs and he took pride in not having tried drugs in any form. He was a staunch supporter of the anti-drug campaign."

Indeed, the education department appointed Yan in 1999 as spokesperson for the youth's anti-drug campaign.

At press time Claudine Barretto was reportedly still in a state of shock and under medication.

"She cannot make any statement as of now," her elder sister Marjorie said. "But she requests that we pray for Rico and that we respect the rights of those who are grieving."

Businessman

At the time of his death, Yan was one of the most popular and sought-after young actors. ***(See related story on this page.)***

He was part of the triumvirate Whattamen—with Dominic Ochoa, who was with him at the resort, and Marvin Agustin. Together they were mainstays of the weekly ABS-CBN program of the same name.

"I treat Rico as my brother," Ochoa said. "I don't have too many friends in show biz. He was a true friend."

But Yan was also a business-minded young man who made his millions even away from the cameras.

He was a franchise owner of the restaurant-bar Tequila Joe's (with Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri, Jean Henri Lhuillier, brothers Griffith and Eugene Go, Bobby Goco and Sandra Vidarte). He owned Orbitz Pearl shakes (with some Chinese friends), which has 150 stalls in Metro Manila.

He also opened a coffee shop called Timbuktu and another restaurant called Java Hut, both in Malate, Manila.

Yan was a commercial model when ABS-CBN resident director Johnny Manahan spotted him in the Eskinol Skin Master TV ad. He was asked to audition and was subsequently launched as part of Star Circle Batch '96.

His expressive face and boyish appeal enhanced the sales of such products as Greenwich Pizza, Nissin's Eggnog and Rainforest Mineral Water. He was also the image model of Molecules shirts.

He made the girls giggle playing wholesome romantic leads in movies like "Paano ang Puso Ko," "Dahil Mahal na Mahal Kita," "Radio Romance" and "Flames." He also starred in soaps like "Mula sa Puso" and "Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan."

He even wrote a column, "Boys to Men," for the Manila Bulletin in 1999.

He was also one of the co-hosts of the daily noontime program, "Magandang Tanghali, Bayan."

All these have come to rest in a coffin now lying at the Divine Child Chapel in La Salle Greenhills. (Yan was a product of the De La Salle system.)

Fans may view Yan's remains tomorrow only, according to the actor's elder brother Bobby. But the family may have difficulty keeping out the fans. There's a long line of mourning fans leading to the chapel.

Solo flight

Reporter Joel Contrivida of radio station dyPR conducted what was to be Yan's last interview at the airport in Puerto Princesa City.

In the interview, Yan said he was going solo flight because Barretto, his costar in "Got 2 Believe," was in Subic with her family.

Asked about his relationship with the actress, he said: "Let's not dwell on that. (We rest during) Holy Week."

It was actually Ochoa who answered most of the questions during the interview.

Asked if they were not afraid of the Abu Sayyaf striking again at Dos Palmas, Ochoa said in Filipino: "If your time's up, your time's up. Let's see if the government can do anything about that."

It was from Dos Palmas that the bandit group abducted in May last year a group including Martin and Gracia Burnham, the American missionary couple that it is still holding hostage to this day.

The resort reopened early this month after being forced to close as a result of near-zero occupancy in the wake of the kidnappings.

Dos Palmas management could not be reached for comment until press time.

Friday morning

Yan arrived in Palawan Tuesday with Ochoa, the latter's girlfriend Janna Victoria and friends from Smart's Talk and Text phone service.

It was Ochoa who found the body, which, according to Clavio, was in pajamas.

Ochoa said he went up to the second floor of the cottage around 9:40 a.m. Friday to awaken Yan. They were to go to the nearby Snake Island.

"The doctors said he must have been dead for hours," Ochoa said.

Physicians led by Dr. Rosalie Reyes from the Adventist Hospital in Puerto Princesa rushed to Dos Palmas.

"We tried to resuscitate him starting from his room in the resort up to the hospital, but to no avail," Reyes told the INQUIRER in a phone interview. "He was already dead. We recommended an autopsy."

The actor's father and brother, Roberto and Bobby Yan, arrived after noon in a chartered Sea Air plane.

"This is the longest trip I have taken in my life, to fetch the remains of my son whom I dearly love," said Roberto Yan.

The Yans refused to have the body autopsied at the Adventist Hospital and brought it to Manila around 5 p.m. in a private plane sent by ABS-CBN chair Eugenio "Gabby" Lopez III.

Throughout the flight, a weeping Bobby Yan stayed close to the body bag containing his brother's remains, occasionally unzipping it and touching the dead man's face.

The aircraft landed at the Meralco Hangar at the Manila Domestic Airport at 6:45 p.m. Gen. Edgardo Aglipay, whose wife Maui is the sister of Roberto Yan, was on hand to meet the group.

Sometime in the day a distraught Ochoa denied the text messages saying that Yan was using drugs.

"Please, whoever is saying that . . . he was using Ecstasy, it is not true," Ochoa said in Taglish. "Don't give my friend any headaches anymore. You have no right. He never took drugs. Whoever is saying that should die!"

'He obliged'

Yan was the third in a brood of four children.

He was the grandson of former AFP chief of staff and ambassador to the Court of St. James's, Manuel Yan, who was appointed by deposed President Joseph Estrada as political adviser on the peace process.

In an interview last year with the INQUIRER, Ambassador Yan said: "He (Rico) wanted to pursue a career in show business but we wanted him to finish his studies, and he obliged.

"When we got together, once or twice a month on Sundays for family reunions, Rico made it a point to be there. He was *pilyo* (naughty) but very thoughtful. Wherever he went, he always brought *pasalubong* for his *lola* and me."

Before he entered show biz in 1996, Yan earned a business management degree from De La Salle University. He completed his elementary education at the Xavier School and high school at La Salle-Zobel in Alabang.

"I will always remember Rico as a perfect gentleman, intelligent, extremely witty, an enthusiastic student who was always willing to discover and learn new things," Lamasan said.

The director has other memories: "I will never forget that he cooked his special soup for me last Valentine's Day and placed it in a basket with a rose. He made my day special." ***With a report from Jofelle P. Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

No foul play in Rico's death, say cops, docs

By TJ Burgonio

YOUNG actor Rico Yan died of natural causes, police said yesterday.

"The doctors said there was no foul play," said Director Edgar Aglipay, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office, citing autopsy findings by physicians of the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory and St. Luke's Hospital.

Aglipay added: "According to the doctors it's acute hemorrhagic pancreatitis resulting (in) cardiac arrest. In short, he died in his sleep, *parang* (like) *bangungot*."

Asked how Yan, identified in police reports as Ricardo Bautista Carlos, came to suffer the ailment, Aglipay said the actor's pancreas "could have given way after going scuba diving and consuming a lot of food later."

He also sought to downplay the bruise found on the left side of Yan's face, saying: "It's a minor bruise. The doctors tried to find out if this had any effect, but found none."

Aglipay said doctors of the PNP Crime Laboratory and St. Luke's Medical Center conducted separate autopsies on the body at the Arlington Funeral Homes in Quezon City "to dispel any problems later," and issued the same findings.

Chief Supt. Jose Marlowe Pedregoza, director of the PNP Crime Laboratory, confirmed Aglipay's statement.

"There's nothing unusual in his death. There's no foul play," Pedregoza said.

But he declined to disclose the laboratory's autopsy findings, saying Yan's family had requested to be allowed to release the report to the media.

The family also requested doctors not to take pictures of Yan's body or lift fingerprints, according to laboratory personnel.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, March 31, 2002
Easter Sunday

1st Reading: **Acts 10:34, 37-43**

Peter spoke to the people, "Truly, I realize that God does not show partiality. No doubt you have heard of the event that occurred throughout the whole country of the Jews, beginning from Galilee, after the baptism John preached. You know how God anointed Jesus the Nazarean with Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all who were under the devil's power, because God was with him; we are witnesses of all that he did throughout the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem itself. Yet they put him to death by hanging him on a wooden cross.

But God raised him to life on the third day and let him manifest himself, not to all the people, but to the witnesses that were chosen beforehand by God—to us who ate and drank with him after his resurrection from death. And he commanded us to preach to the people and to bear witness that he is the one appointed by God to judge the living and the dead. All the prophets say of him, that everyone who believes in him has forgiveness of sins through his Name."

2nd Reading: **Col 3:1-4**

Sisters and brothers, if you are risen with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things that are above, not on earthly things. For you have died and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, reveals himself, you also will be revealed with him in Glory.

Gospel: **Jn 20:1-9**

On the first day after the sabbath, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark and she saw that the stone blocking the tomb had been moved away. She ran to Peter and the other disciple whom Jesus loved. And she said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb and we don't know where they have laid him."

Peter then set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down and saw the linen cloths lying flat, but he did not enter.

Then Simon Peter came following him and entered the tomb; he, too, saw the linen cloths lying flat. The napkin, which had been around his head was not lying flat like the other linen cloths but lay rolled up in its place. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and believed. Scripture clearly said that he must rise from the dead, but they had not yet understood that.

Commentary

Today, in Rome, our Holy Father will give his traditional Easter message and proclamation, "Urbi et Orbi": to the City and to the World. In many different languages, he will announce over and over: "CHRIST IS RISEN! ALLELUIA! This is the mission of the Church, to proclaim the resurrection. Today's readings do just that. Peter: "We are witnesses of all that Jesus did.... We ate and drank with him after his resurrection." Paul proclaims our faith that the death and resurrection of Christ affects everyone, empowering us to be intimately united with Christ in mind, heart and action. Mary of Magdala, Peter and John find the tomb empty, and John bears witness to the dawning of faith. Let's celebrate, with hearts open to Easter faith and joy.

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Mother Ignacia helps Sin recover

From page A1

Religious of the Virgin Mary (RVM) more than 300 years ago.

The cardinal's recovery through the intercession of Mother Ignacia is the testimony of his brother, Dr. Ramon Sin, which he sent to the National Office of the Movement for the Beatification of Mother Ignacia.

Dr. Sin said he had devotions to practically all the saints, "but I single you out (Mother Ignacia) in this letter because for several years now, I have been saying my novena to your cause, everyday, non-stop."

He said that because of the complications from the cardinal's peritoneal dialysis, he "suffered so much, got so weak" and was "in bad shape." After a month's confinement at the Cardinal Santos Medical Center, the cardinal recovered, which Dr. Sin attributed to Mother Ignacia's "divine intercession."

This was not the first time that Mother Ignacia "interceded" for the cardinal.

According to Dr. Sin's letter he also prayed to Mother Ignacia in 1992 when the cardinal had severe chickenpox.

"It was so severe that he suffered so much, became weak with loss of appetite. The cardinal pulled through, again, thanks to you Mother," Dr. Sin's letter said.

Four years later, when the cardinal's kidneys were failing, Dr. Sin said he once again turned to Mother Ignacia to make the peritoneal dialysis procedure work.

"It did work for two years," said Dr. Sin, thanks to Mother Ignacia, for her "sign of miraculous help." He also cited Mother Ignacia for his sister Salvacion's healing in 1996.

Dr. Sin said he was convinced of Mother Ignacia's miraculous intercessions having been a member of the panel, which would meet to discuss her beatification, a step before sainthood.

He's not alone in his belief in Mother Ignacia. His testimony is one of the many documented favors or graces received through the help of Mother Ignacia.

Favors/graces

Sister Nicetas Dael, RVM, national executive secretary of the Mother Ignacia Movement-Philippines (MIM) said that more than 500 "documented favors and graces" received through her intercession have been compiled in four bound volumes.

The documentation of graces or favors is being done by the RVM sisters and MIM members to facilitate the beatification of Mother Ignacia.

Sister Dael said Mother Ignacia's beatification was now under consideration by the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of Saints. To date, her cause has already been approved by the historical commission.

The historical commission is the first of three commissions within the Congregation for the Causes of Saints which are tasked with scrutinizing and evaluating Mother Ignacia's life for heroic virtues and orthodoxy of doctrines.

Aside from the cases of Cardinal Sin and his sister, others recorded from all over the world include healing from various types of cancer and other ailments, and surgical operations aborted.

The other graces reported received through Mother Ignacia's intercession include reconciliation of estranged relationships, return of long friends or members of the family, discovering God's interventions in difficult situations and safety in travel.

Also recorded were material favors granted such as financial assistance, passing examinations and interviews, approval of visas and travel papers, debts being paid and approval of job applications.

Most of the recipients were effusive about the "miracle" they received. But Sister Dael cautioned about the use of the word "miracle." She said the term to be used at this time is "favor" or "grace."

A favor or grace would be called a miracle only with the Church's imprimatur. And only after passing stringent "Medical Inquisitions" can a physical healing be called a miracle.

The evidence of only one miracle is sufficient for a person to be beatified. (The exception is the case of martyrs.)

Outstanding humility

From the long list of her virtues, Mother Ignacia's humility was singled out as her outstanding virtue by her biographer, the 18th-century Jesuit historian, Fr. Pedro Murillo Velarde.

Today's politicians can learn a lot from Mother Ignacia's humble ways as she did what may be an unthinkable thing to do. Sister Dael said Mother Ignacia trained a younger *beata* (pious woman) to take over as superior of the association she founded and spent the remaining years of her life as merely its member.

Recent witnesses during the investigations to the sanctity of Mother Ignacia said they believed that the fruit of her many virtues was the concrete existence of the congregation she founded.

While other congregations have experienced splits and factions, the RVM has remained united for more than 300 years.

Truly Filipino

The small *beaterio* called the Beaterio de la Compania de Jesus de Manila that Mother Ignacia formed in Intramuros in 1684 now officially the Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is the largest indigenous religious congregation of more than 700 nuns in the Philippines.

It runs colleges, mission and retreat houses, seminaries and dormitories all over the Philippines and in a number of other countries like West Africa, Taiwan, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Italy, Nepal, Pakistan, Western Samoa, Canada and the United States.

Most of the work done by Mother Ignacia and the beatas were undocumented and, in today's lingo, without press releases. The lack of documentation on her work was cited as a cause of delay for her beatification.

Sister Dael said they might not have ancient documents but they had "authentic traditions" preserved in the community.

From generation to generation, the story of her death has been recounted within the RVM community that their "foundress received the Blessed Sacrament for the last time in a very devout manner, insisting, despite her great bodily weakness, on rising from her bed to receive the sacrament on her knees." She died on her knees at the altar rail after receiving Holy Communion.

Mother Ignacia was 85 years old when she died in 1748. She had devoted 64 years in the service of God. She was only 21 years old when she founded the RVM.

Mother Ignacia had to overcome the social and cultural restrictions of her time as a woman and as a native or "Yndia."

Mother Ignacia was born in Binondo, Manila, to parents Jusepe Iuco, a Chinese textile merchant, and Maria Geronima, an Yndia. She was baptized as Ignacia del Espiritu Santo. Like the young women of her time, Ignacia was brought up to marry a "promising young man" in an arranged marriage.

Mother Ignacia had to brave her well-off parents' objections to the life of uncertainty that she chose. She also had to brave the ridicule of people as it was, according to Sister Dael, "far beyond their imagination to see a young woman living alone without a husband, children or family."

For she was alone at the start of her attempts to follow Christ in the "pursuit of perfect love."

GMA publicist . . .

From page A1

in the thick of planning "damage control" for a "communication problem."

Leaders of the Kaibigan ni Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (KGMA), her campaign team in Baguio in the 1998 election, has regrouped here to map out an information campaign aimed at countering Ang's alleged bungling.

They cited a survey result showing that the President's controversial "Ina ng Bayan" television commercials had confused Baguio's grass-roots communities.

The commercials—Ang's brainchild, by his own admission—trumpeted the achievements of the Macapagal administration.

Crispina Luna, a member of the Baguio Association of Retired Persons and supporter of the President, said KGMA members became convinced that her administration's targets were "unrealizable" when they saw her initial commercial two weeks ago.

"They were laughing," said KGMA spokesperson Concepcion Luis. "There was too much emotion but little data (in the commercial)."

'Kailangan ko kayo'

The commercial in question, noteworthy for the President's breathy delivery and the memorable catch phrase, "*Kailangan ko kayo* (I need your help)," allegedly drew the most criticism.

Rina Gawe, a KGMA convenor and chapter coordinator of the Aguman Ding Capampangan Scholarship Fund, said Ang's attempts at projecting the President's "humility" should have softened her public image. But what happened, Gawe said, was that the commercial created a new personality for the President that eventually baffled audiences in Baguio.

A second commercial run a few days later employed the same materials but presented a "less emotional" President.

According to Luis, the result of the survey proved that Ang's commercials relayed to the provinces a fractured image of Ms Macapagal's "numerous achievements."

"This is a communication problem, and for us, this demands immediate solutions," Luis said, adding:

"We did not want to add fuel to the controversy. We did not want to add to the President's problems. But we are going to confront these problems in the next presidential election in 2004, and we want to be prepared for that."

Show biz

The KGMA's resolve came a week ahead of news reports that movie stars would make their pitch for the President.

In a 40-second commercial, Nora Aunor, touted as Ms Macapagal's lookalike, was the first from show biz to cite the administration's accomplishments.

Luis acknowledged that Aunor's plug—delivered while still photographs of the "workaholic" President were flashed in the background—was actually the most noteworthy publicity effort yet.

"(I am certain the new commercial) is not Ang's (doing)," Luis said. "It's not his style."

Luis also conceded that Aunor was "a good choice."

"The President was always associated with Nora, and Nora was identified with (ousted President Joseph) Estrada," Luis said. "With her endorsing (Ms Macapagal), that is already a (subliminal) message that is to our advantage."

RP accepts apology

From page A1

as exploitation exists we cannot eliminate poverty.

Bush followed him the next day and pledged $5 billion a year for the next three years, premised on the recipients' reforms in democracy and freedom.

The plenary speeches broke for the noon recess on March 21. We did not ask for any invitation to any function. But the staff of our delegation informed me that the Mexican government had sent one, inviting me to luncheon tendered by the governor of the state of Nuevo Leon.

We went to the designated place. Upon reaching the doorway, the Mexican aide assigned to me showed the invitation and I was ushered in. I went through the reception led by Gov. Fernando Clariond and his gracious wife. Very cordial.

After I passed them, I was approached by a lady attendant who asked me for my name and country. I responded, and she said that I would be seated at Table No. 5, indicating the precise seat. Since no one was as yet seated at that table, I engaged pleasantries with some dignitaries from Europe.

A few minutes later, the same lady attendant approached me again, and with seeming regrets ruefully informed me that there had been a grave mistake—that the luncheon was meant only for heads of state.

I therefore asked her why I had been invited. I told her I would never have come if I had not been invited. She looked perplexed and mumbled something about a mistake.

Overheard

A Mexican official must have overheard us. He intervened and indicated that I should stay . . . but he and the lady attendant drifted. They talked, joined by another gentleman from somewhere, leaving me in suspended animation.

Even before they returned, I already decided to leave. So when they came back to me with the same explanation, I left.

At the doorway, I met Premier Thaksin of Thailand and his foreign minister. They asked me where I was going. Not wanting to make a detailed response, I paraphrased Cardinal Richelieu's reply under somewhat similar circumstances. I said, "You are coming in, I am going out. Goodbye."

They stood there uncertain, not knowing why or where.

In the past, the Philippines and Mexico have had good relations—and there exists no rhyme or reason for such lamentable acts of discourtesy. Explanations perhaps, justifications never.

When a Filipino invites someone to his home, a friend or an official, we never turn him down. Never. If only in the name of courtesy, more so official invitations. I therefore directed our Charge d'Affaires Eduardo de Vega to ask Manila to file the necessary protest.

On the same day, I was informed that Governor Clariond would write me an apology. Later, I learned that Ambassador Hubbard himself had issued a formal apology. But I was not satisfied.

Although I value the merits of the apologies made, I called our department for them to inform the Mexican government that the slur approximating insult, for whatever reason, was in effect directed not only at me but mainly to our government, to our nation, our people for whom I stood. Reason and justice therefore demands that the apology, if at all, should come from the Mexican government herself, asking indulgence for the breach from our government.

That apology has now come. As the contents of the apology itself states: there are explanations but no justifications, truly sorry, with assurances that in the future they will do everything possible to avoid a repetition of this lamentable error.

Apology accepted.

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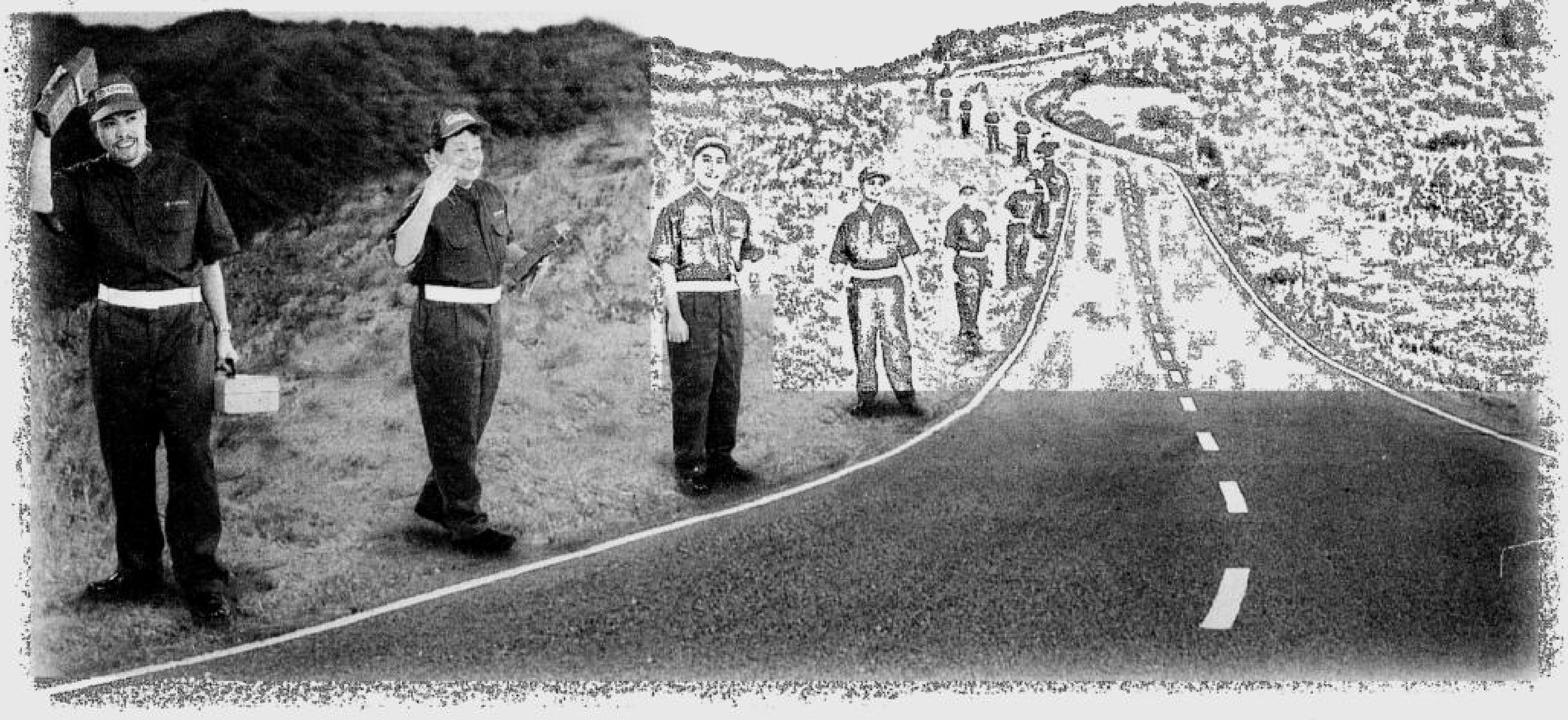

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YOKOHAMA

Checkmate clinics get going

THE MILO Checkmate summer chess classes in Metro Manila will kick off tomorrow, April 1, in three venues. Clinics will be held at St. Benedict College HS student lounge in Alabang Hills, Muntinlupa City from 7-11 a.m.; Rizal Memorial,(Badminton Bldg.), in Vito Cruz, Manila from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and at the 2/F of Centermall-Bangketa in Greenhills Shopping Center from 2:30-6:30 p.m.

Sunday SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◎ *Assistant Editor* **Edwin M. Villanueva**

Golf show today

GOLF Power today presents the 7th annual Mega Ladies Cup Golf Tournament recently held at the Tagaytay Midlands Golf and Country Club. Also featured on the show are the regular dose of golf tips, trivia, definition of golf terms and rules. Golf Power, now on its seventh year, is aired every Sunday, 3 p.m. on IBC-13 and is hosted by golf professional Gerard Cantada.

PBA RESUMES

Pals gun for 6th win

TEAMS	W	L
Purefoods	7	1
Talk N Text	5	1
Red Bull	5	2
Coca-Cola	5	3
Alaska	4	3
Fedex	4	4
Hapee-RP	4	4
San Miguel	3	4
Sta. Lucia	3	4
Selecta-RP	2	6
Shell	1	6
Ginebra	1	6

GAMES TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)

4 p.m.—Shell vs Talk N Text

6 p.m.—Ginebra vs San Miguel

By June navarro

TALK N TEXT lines itself for another win as it meets tailender Shell today at the resumption of the PBA Samsung Governors Cup after a week-long break.

The Phone Pals are tipped to pick up their sixth straight victory, the longest streak so far this season, in the 4 p.m. setto at the Araneta Coliseum.

Indications point to that direction as the Turbochargers have been hampered by five consecutive debacles.

Injuries to Dale Singson and Gerry Esplana, Shell's top court generals, have taken their toll on the Turbochargers, whose only win came at the expense of Coca-Cola, 90-82, on Feb. 17.

From thereon, the Turbochargers bowed to Federal Express, Barangay Ginebra, San Miguel Beer, Hapee-RP Team and Purefoods in succession.

Because of that, the Turbochargers may be easy targets for the Phone Pals, the league's hottest team with a 5-1 card, two games behind frontrunner Purefoods (7-1).

Sister teams Barangay Ginebra and San Miguel Beer face each other in the other thriller at 6 p.m.

Just like the Turbochargers, the Kings are also locked up in the cellar with a 1-6 record after three straight misfortunes against Coca-Cola, Talk N Text and Federal Express.

The Kings were close to breaking that slump against the Express but Paul Alvarez, Jermaine Walker and Tim Moore towed FedEx to a 79-78 squeaker to the disappointment of the Ginebra faithful.

While the Kings couldn't get their act together, the Beermen are now getting into the flow, winning three out of their last four outings within a month.

Lamont Strothers and Mario Bennett have been getting the needed boost from the locals as Nic Belasco, Dwight Lago, Dorian Pena and Robert Duat filled the void left by Danny Seigle and Danny Ildefonso.

The Beermen are still situated at the lower flight of the standings and tied with Sta. Lucia Realty at 3-4 but are slowly pulling themselves out of a deep pit after starting the conference at 0-3.

PBA is ultimate target

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

LIGHT a candle for the art of protest.

Some people—are they players or team owners? —have seemingly started a campaign to kick all the Fil-Ams out of the National Team bound for the September Busan Games. Their argument: the Fil-Ams they want out are not really Fil-Ams. Meaning, that there's no Filipino blood running in their veins or something.

Commendable.

If the accusation is true, I want them out, too.

But first, let's get our facts straight.

If we say the Fil-Ams now aspiring for slots to the national quintet aren't what they claim to be, then something's spooky has happened on their way to PBAlandia.

The Fil-Ams got into the Philippine Basketball Association through a tedious process. Before they got there, they needed to get a clearance from the Department of Justice. Meaning, they had to prove of their Filipino lineage before the DoJ could give them clearance to play.

They were successful, and that's precisely the reason why they made it to the PBA.

They got the DoJ nod, and that's precisely the reason why they are now in the pool of candidates for the RP Team going to the Asiad.

I can't understand the anti Fil-Am move, if ever there's one.

If at all, its ultimate target is the PBA.

Somebody out there wants to kill the league?

Hey, the PBA is now virtually peopled by Fil-Ams. How they got there is a story torn from a leaf of Adam's creation.

To be sure, the PBA played it safe. It plugged all loopholes so as not to allow a single Fil-Sham to crash into the league. Thus, Sonny Alvarado and several other wannabes had been promptly kicked out for failing to produce the correct citizenship papers.

For the record, it was not the PBA which kicked out Alvarado et al. It was the DoJ.

For the record, too, it was not the PBA which accepted Taulava et al. It was the DoJ.

Following this analogy, anybody wanting to reopen the Fil-Am case should not badger the PBA. Instead, he should present his case to the DoJ.

It would be a Hail Mary move, though. It would be like telling the Oscar Academy it had to reverse its decision choosing Denzel Washington Best Actor over Russell Crowe. It's not that easy, I tell you.

What, you are going to the Senate?

Good luck, *bebe*.

If you still don't know it, you'll get to meet more clowns there than in the greatest vaudeville show in town.

Or, haven't you heard of grandstanding yet?

C'mon, don't be naïve.

Jordan flashes best game since knee surgery as Wizards subdue Bucks

WASHINGTON—Michael Jordan had his best game since his knee surgery, scoring 34 points on 12-for-22 shooting in 26 minutes as the Washington Wizards moved into a tie for ninth place in the Eastern Conference with a 107-98 victory over the Milwaukee Bucks in the NBA on Saturday night.

The Bucks finished the game without starters Sam Cassell and Glenn Robinson, who were ejected in the second half. Cassell punted the ball off the scoreboard and into the crowd after he was called for an offensive foul late in the third quarter. Robinson was assessed back-to-back technicals for arguing a call early in the fourth.

Milwaukee guard Ray Allen (flu) didn't play.

Jordan had his best scoring night since he had 37 against Miami on Feb. 23, four days before the right knee surgery that caused him to miss 12 games.

Richard Hamilton added 24 points for the Wizards, tied with Toronto in the East. Both teams are chasing Indiana for the conference's final playoff spot.

The Bucks lost for the sixth time in eight games.

Timberwolves 98, Knicks 77

In New York, Wally Szczerbiak scored 25 points, including a ridiculously wide open 3-pointer to cap a 17-1 run in the second quarter. Minnesota snapped an 11-game losing streak at Madison Square Garden, gaining its first victory in New York since Jan. 16, 1991.

Kevin Garnett added 12 points, 15 rebounds and five assists before sitting out the entire fourth quarter along with the rest of Minnesota's starters.

Lakers 91, Trail Blazers 79

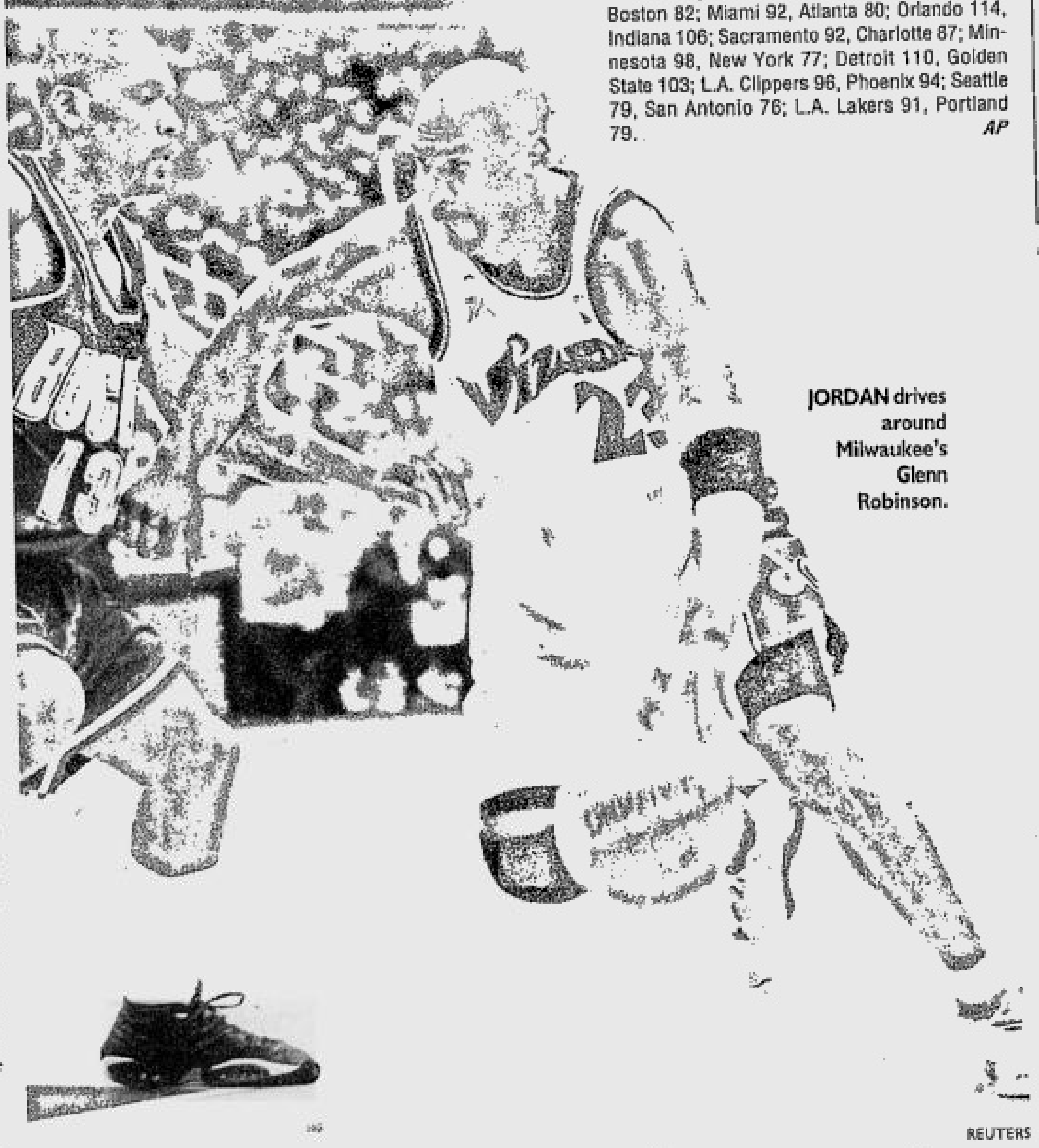
In Los Angeles, Shaquille O'Neal had 34 points and 14 rebounds, and Kobe Bryant also scored 34. Samaki Walker had 17 rebounds for the Lakers, who broke open a tight game by reeling off a 14-5 string in the first seven minutes of the final quarter.

Scottie Pippen made just two of his 18 shots, one in each half for Portland, and was 1-for-7 in the fourth quarter. He finished with five points and Portland shot 33 percent for the game.

O'Neal survived a scary crash landing with 6:30 left, hurdling fans in courtside seats and tumbling into the aisle. *AP*

COMPLETE RESULTS

Washington 107, Milwaukee 98; Dallas 108, Boston 82; Miami 92, Atlanta 80; Orlando 114, Indiana 106; Sacramento 92, Charlotte 87; Minnesota 98, New York 77; Detroit 110, Golden State 103; L.A. Clippers 96, Phoenix 94; Seattle 79, San Antonio 76; L.A. Lakers 91, Portland 79. *AP*



JORDAN drives around Milwaukee's Glenn Robinson.

REUTERS

20 years later, MJ recalls jumpshot

RALEIGH, North Carolina — Michael Jordan waited on the left wing. With his team down by one and a national championship at stake, the skinny, 19-year-old freshman was virtually unnoticed by the defense as the final seconds ticked away.

One jumpshot made sure that would never happen again.

Jordan has made nearly 30 game-winning shots in his pro career, including one that gave the Chicago Bulls their sixth NBA championship. But none was bigger than the one he hit 20 years ago Friday: a 16-foot (4.8-meter) jumper with 15 seconds left to give North Carolina the 1982 NCAA championship.

And it introduced Michael Jordan to the world.

"That's THE shot," Jordan said this week. "That's the one that initiated everything. If I put anything ahead of that, honestly, I wouldn't be who I am."

North Carolina and Georgetown met in New Orleans for the NCAA championship on March 29, 1982. Trailing 62-61 with the ball in the final seconds, the Tar Heels called timeout.

Coach Dean Smith wanted to get the ball inside to James Worthy - who finished with a game-high 28 points - or Sam Perkins. The 6-foot-5, 188-pound (1.9-meter, 84.6-kilogram) Jordan - listed as "Mike" in the Tar Heels media guide - was the third option. *AP*

Top seeds get much attention; Sooners lurk

ATLANTA—Watch out Kansas and Maryland. Oklahoma is OK, too.

Better than OK, really.

Much of the attention at the Final Four is on the two No. 1 seeds, the Jayhawks and Terrapins, but the second-seeded Sooners should not be overlooked.

They won the Big 12 tournament. They're playing some of the best defense in the country. Oh, yeah, they also beat Maryland and Kansas this season.

The Terrapins and Jayhawks play in the marquee national semifinal Saturday night (Sunday morning in Manila), following the Sooners' game against fifth-seeded Indiana.

"I think we're a tough basketball team, but after watching them it definitely raises the bar," Hoosiers coach Mike Davis said.

This is nothing like 1974, when the semifinal between North Carolina State and UCLA overshadowed the other between Marquette and Kansas, or like 1983, when Houston and Louisville played above the rim in one semifinal while North Carolina State and Georgia seemed a mere formality.

Still, the attention heading into the weekend is clearly on Kansas-Maryland. The Sooners don't care - as long as they get by Indiana for a shot at the national championship against a team they already beat this season.

Oklahoma (31-4) defeated then-No. 2 Maryland 72-56 on Dec. 21, one of the Terrapins' four losses in 34 games, and their lowest point total of the season.

The Sooners split with Kansas (33-3), losing 74-67 on Jan. 19, and then beat the then-No. 1 Jayhawks 64-55 in the Big 12 tournament championship game on March 10. The 55 points were the lowest of the season by far for the nation's highest scoring team, 35 off their average. *AP*

Cage classes tomorrow

MILO BEST Center's summer basketball classes at Ateneo College covered courts and Arellano University gym in Pasig city unwrap tomorrow.

The sessions at Ateneo and Arellano Pasig will be held every Monday and Thursday until April 25.

Level 1 (for all age group) and 2 (for age group 5-7) clinics from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. are slated at Arellano Pasig.

Milo BEST will also conduct clinics in seven other venues—Flos Carmili Institution every Monday and Thursday from April 4 to 25, Notre Dame of Greater Manila, Arellano University Legarda and Pasay and Jose Rizal University every Tuesday and Friday from April 2 to 26 and Barangay BF multi-purpose gym every Wednesday and Saturday from April 3 to 27 and St. Benedict College every Wednesday and Saturday from April 10-27.

Interested parties may register either at The BEST Center, 34 Scout Lozano corner Scout Reyes, Barangay Laging Handa, QC (tel. Nos. 411-62-60 and 373-30-65/66), at Dansei Groom Shop/Sensei Salon, 5th floor, Holiday Inn Manila, UN Avenue (tel. No. 528-81-91) or the venue of their choice at least 30 minutes before the start of classes.

2 NBA games on '4' tonight

NBA fans can relax at home this Easter Sunday and enjoy back-to-back NBA games from Solar Entertainment starting at 7 p.m. on NBN-4 with the much-awaited match-up of two hot teams, the Portland Trailblazers facing the San Antonio Spurs, followed by the Houston Rockets-Phoenix Suns tussle at 9:10 p.m.

The Spurs have compiled an NBA season-best 13 straight wins before meeting the Trailblazers, who have won 17 of their last 20 games. San Antonio, the 1999 NBA champions, is tied with the Dallas Mavericks atop the Midwest Division, while the Trailblazers have a one-game lead over Minnesota for fifth place in the West.

Elite group

NBA NOTES

Henry Liao

DID you know that 10 players who were recipients of the "Final Four" Most Outstanding Player award in previous NCAA tournaments are on NBA rosters this season?

They are Toronto's Hakeem Olajuwon (Houston 1983), Orlando's Patrick Ewing (Georgetown 1984), Dallas' Danny Manning (Kansas 1988), Houston's Glen Rice (Michigan 1989), Washington's Christian Laettner (Duke 1991) and Richard Hamilton (Connecticut 1999), Detroit's Corlies Williamson (Arkansas 1994), Boston's Tony Delk (Kentucky 1996), Sacramento's Mateen Cleaves (Michigan State 2000) and Memphis's Shane Battier (Duke 2001).

Olajuwon and Rice are the only members of the elite group to have secured an NBA title ring so far. Olajuwon powered the Houston Rockets to consecutive NBA crowns in 1994 and 1995 while being chosen NBA Finals MVP each time. Rice was a key figure in the LA Lakers' NBA championship finish in 2000.

Only four men have earned an NCAA title in one season and an NBA championship in the next.

Accomplishing the feat are Bill Russell (1955 and 1956 San Francisco/1957 Boston), Henry Bibby (1970, 1971 and 1972 UCLA/1973 New York—he's the father of current Sacramento King Mike Bibby), Earvin "Magic" Johnson (1979 Michigan State/1980 LA Lakers) and Billy Thompson (1986 Louisville/1987 LA Lakers—he played for San Miguel in the PBA in 1994).

Only two players have captured back-to-back NCAA and NBA championships in their roundball careers.

They are Bill Russell and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, both of whom would later be inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

Russell gained a pair of NCAA hardware with the San Francisco Dons in 1955 (28-1) and 1955 (29-0) and annexed consecutive titles with the Boston Celtics from 1959 through 1966 and again in 1968 and 1969 with the same NBA club.

Abdul-Jabbar powered the UCLA Bruins to the NCAA championship in 1967 (30-0), 1968 (29-1) and 1969 (29-1)—the only player ever to win the NCAA crown for three consecutive seasons.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Mangulat

BASKETBALL: US NCAA - 2002 Final Four – Indiana vs Oklahoma and Kansas vs Maryland beginning 7 a.m. (r- 7 p.m.) on Sky and Home Cable 29

Postseason NIT Tournament Championship at 7 a.m. (r) on ESPN

NBA Inside Stuff at 7:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

The Basketball Show at 2 p.m. on RPN 9

NBN – Portland Trailblazers vs San Antonio Spurs at 7 p.m., Houston Rockets vs Phoenix Suns at 9:10 p.m. on NBN 4

MOTOR SPORTS: 2002 F1 Brazilian Grand Prix Qualifying at 8 a.m. (r – 4 p.m. and 9 p.m.) on Star Sports

Brazilian Grand Prix at midnight on Star Sports

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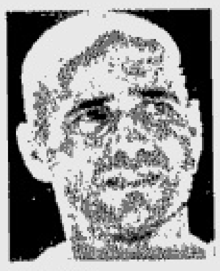
Agassi a victory shy of 5th Biscayne title



AGASSI

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida—Andre Agassi won one set Friday, enough to make him a finalist at Key Biscayne for the seventh time.

The four-time champion advanced when Marcelo Rios retired because of recurrent knee tendinitis with their semifinal match tied after two sets at the Nasdaq-100 Open.

Agassi lost the first set 7-6 (7) and won the second 6-4. During the ensuing changeover, Rios briefly consulted with trainer Doug Spreen, then retired and shook Agassi's hand.

"I was very surprised," Agassi said. "The last thing you're expecting is for the match to come to kind of an abrupt end."

The ninth-seeded Agassi's opponent Sunday will be No. 12 Roger Federer of Switzerland, who upset No. 1 Lleyton Hewitt 6-3, 6-4.

The 699th victory of Agassi's career was his first in three matches against Rios.

On Sunday, Agassi can add to the Key Biscayne titles he won in 1990, 1995, 1996 and 2001. His opponent, Federer, is in a Tennis Master Series final for the first time and has yet to lose his serve or a set in the tournament.

In the women's final Saturday, top-seeded Jennifer Capriati plays No. 8 Serena Williams, with each American bidding for her first Key Biscayne title.

Capriati, extended past midnight for the second time this week, advanced early Friday by overcoming two match points to beat No. 5 Monica Seles 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (4).

For nearly two hours against Agassi, Rios appeared intent on making the final for the first time since winning the 1998 title. **AP**

SPORTSWATCH

Efren nominated

EFREN "Bata" Reyes has been nominated to the 2002 Billiard Congress of America Hall of Fame ballot in the "Greatest Players" category. This was announced by Stephen D. Ducoff, BCA Executive Director, in a letter to Reyes. Reyes, sponsored by Puyat Sports, is one of five nominees BCA members will vote on. The winner will be announced on May 18. The other nominees are Earl Strickland, Jim Rempie, Edwin Kelly and Loree Jon Jones.

RP keglers shine

JAKARTA, Indonesia—The Philippine bowling team composed of four-time World Cup champion Paeng Nepomuceno, Biboy Rivera, Chester King and Liza del Rosario won a closely contested battle last night for the Seotopo Jananto Memorial Cup at the Jaya Ancol Bowling Center here. It was a nip and tuck affair between the Philippines, Hong Kong and Malaysia as the lead changed hands several time with the Philippines finally emerging as champion with a total score of 2474, edging Hong Kong with a total of 2464. Malaysia settled for third with a 2442 total. The Jananto Memorial Cup was a special event staged here during the President's Cup International Open championship which ends on April 1.

Tennis lessons up

THE COUNTRY'S leading coaches and players will provide tennis lessons in the Dunlop Tennis Camp 02 in six venues in Metro Manila and Laguna this April. Coaches Johnny Jose, Martin Misa, Totoy Alina, Victor Cribe, Mary Ilagan, Bobby de Castro, Willie Servillon and Michael Paz and national players Jennifer Saret, Joanna Feria, DJ Suarez and Roland so will give beginners, intermediate and advance lessons to enrolles starting April 3. Venuse are Alabang Country Club, Manila Polo Club, Tahanan Village Park, El Ray Subd in Laguna, Rizal Racket Club and North Greenhills Tennis Courts. For inquiries, call the Dunlop office at 893-2727; 8932737 or email dunloptennis@hotmail.com

Weights submission

SUBMISSION of weights for the NCA 7-Cock Derby on April 1-3 will be held today (Sunday) at the green gate of the Araneta Coliseum. For details, call 911-3101, ask for Dong Lamoste. Seeing action in this post-Lenten derby hosted by Boy Primalion and Kano Daniel are the country's topnotch cockers. Among them are Big Dome owner Nene Araneta, Ambassador Danding Cojuangco, James Chiongbian, former Rizal Gov. Ito Ynares, twice Cocker of the Year Jun Santiago, Jun and Rudy Jingco of Pampanga, lawyer Rudy Salud and Lito Orillaza.

Singh ahead by 2

HOUSTON, Texas— Vijay Singh, seeking his first U.S. PGA Tour win since the 2000 Masters, returned a seven-under-par 65 to take a two-shot lead after the second round of the $4 million Houston Open on Friday. Fijian Singh, the world number eight, was 12-under-par on 132, two strokes ahead of Northern Ireland's Darren Clarke, who also had a 65. One shot further back on 135 at the TPC at The Woodlands course was JP Hayes (68). Geoff Ogilvy of Australia was on 136 together with Brandt Jobe, while Scott Verplank, Jay Haas and Chris Riley shared sixth position on 137. Australian Greg Norman and Justin Leonard were also in contention on 138. **AP**

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Race 4—1. Be Quiet 2. Heavenly
Race 5—1. Modern Classic 2. Noah's Arc 3. Gigi's Gold 4. Real Material 5. Empowered 6. Kentucky Gold
Race 6—1. Silver Print 2. Storm Princess 3. Rising Fast 4. El Magnifico
Race 7—1. Grand Prize 2. Rainmaker 3. Shot Gun
Race 8—1. Hope 2. Arresbee 3. Lucky El 4. King Cobra
Race 9—1. Valiant Queen 2. Korek Ka Dyan 3. Forest Dancer 4. Kokoro 5. Roman Music
Race 10—1. The Mailman/Stradivarius 2. Hemisphere 3. Spirited Lady 4. Rose and Toy 5. Justsaywhenjen
Race 11—1. Lavish Feast 2. Renegade 3. Aly Sam 4. Kayang Kaya 5. With Feeling
Race 12—1. Bull Strike 2. Something Silver 3. Strong Bird 4. Sir Olizon 5. Star Sapphire
Race 13—1. Kay Gee Em Ey 2. Love Song 3. Il Amorosa 4. Dinner Dress
Race 14—1. Profit Margin 2. Beatitudes 3. Knows Love 4. Golden Figure 4. Ocean Menary 6. Manila Mauler

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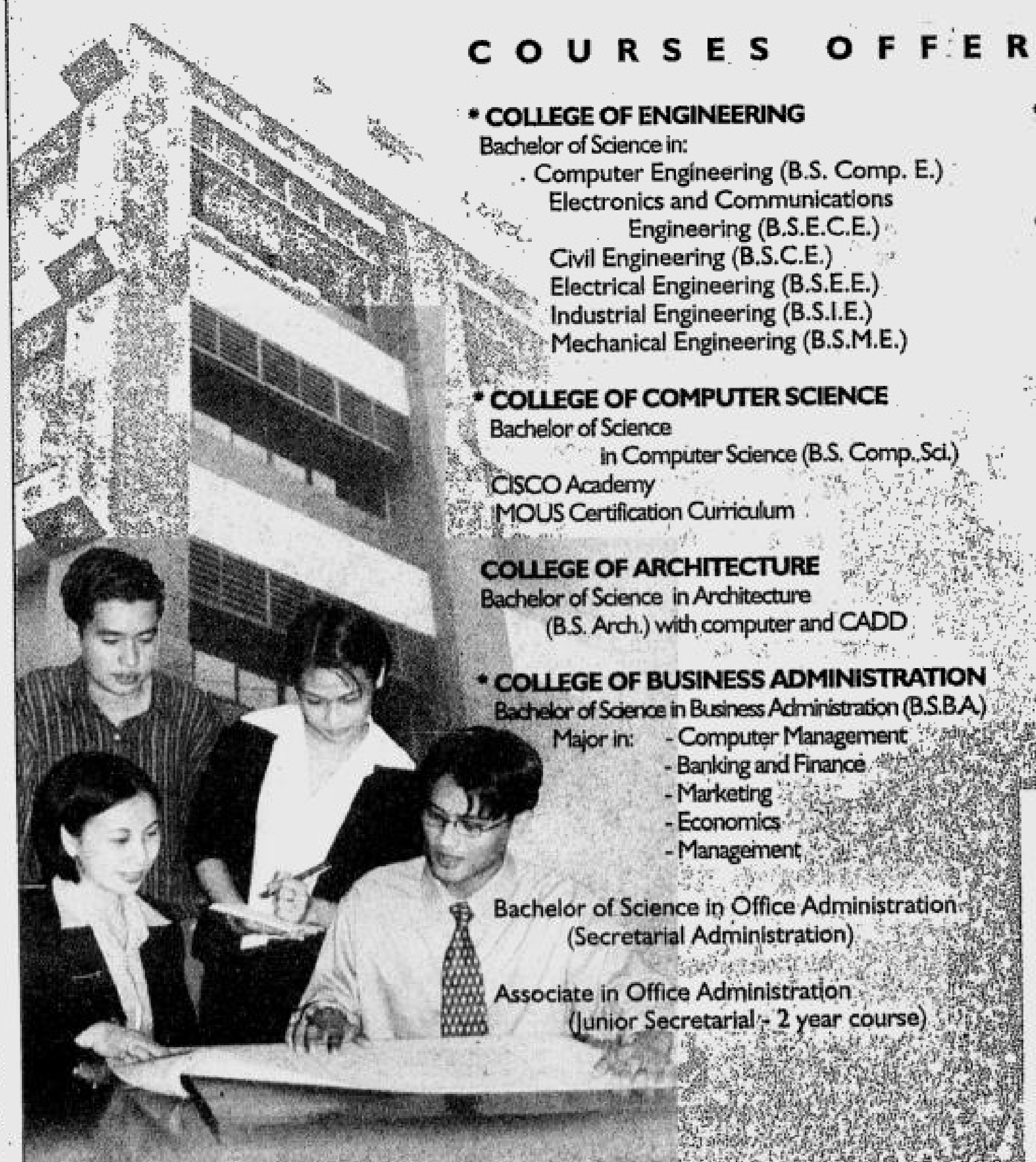

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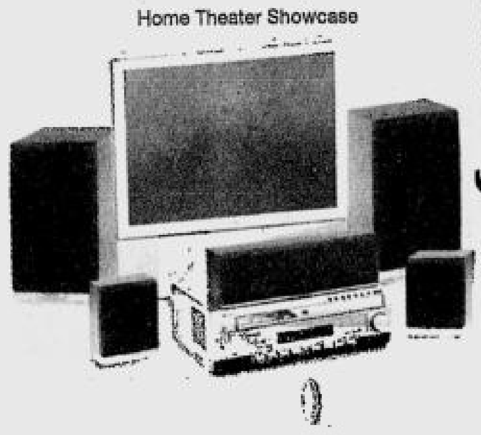
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16		500
23		500
30		500
May 7	₱300 worth of call and text credit	500
14		500
21		500
28		500
June 4	₱300 worth of call and text credit	500
11		500
18		500
25		500
July 2		500

Monthly Draws

Draw Date	Prize	No. of Winners
May 7	Home Theater* or Digital** Showcase	1
June 4	Home Theater* or Digital** Showcase	1
July 2	Home Theater* or Digital** Showcase	1

Grand Draw

Draw Date	Prize	No. of Winners
July 2	SUV of your choice***	1

*Home Theater Showcase: Philips 127 cm. (50") Projection TV and Pioneer HTZ 77 Home Theater (DVD, VCD, and CD-capable) with MP3 Player and 5.1 speaker system

**Digital Showcase: DCR-TRV30 Sony Video Camera, Compaq iPAQ, Canon A10 Digital Still Camera, and a Sony Playstation 2

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See flyers for more details. Per DTI NCR Permit No. 0581 Series of 2002

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METRO

Editor Loüie C. Camino

- **DENR hauls off toxic waste from Bulacan town, dumps it in another** /A26
- **Rescue of a whipping boy** /A26
- **Yan: A life cut short** /A26

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What Drives You CALTEX

A boy's deliverance from the whip

AT THE receiving end of domestic violence is this 10-year-old victim.

By Dulce Festin-Baybay
Contributor

FLAGELLATION is usually performed Good Friday, when grown men, their heads shrouded with cloth and their torsos bare, whip their backs to bleeding, as an act of penance of to fulfill a vow. Wilson started to suffer it when he was not yet 10 years old.

For Wilson (not his real name), now 10, being whipped had nothing to do at all with penance. It was pure and simple cruel treatment. It was so cruel it attracted the attention of neighbors and community officials.

More than a year ago, a barangay official of Old Balara in Quezon City called the hotline of Bantay Bata 163 (BB163). The barangay official was seeking the help of BB163 in behalf of a boy, Wilson, who was suffering physical abuse from his parents.

Wilson, then 9, later said his parents were regularly whipping him in different parts of his frail body and he could not understand why.

At the time of his rescue by barangay officials, the boy was covered with bruises.

When barangay officials invited the mother for verification of the child's complaints, she refused to come, claiming she could not leave her youngest child who she said was sick.

The mother was informed that a team from BB163 was on its way to attend to her child. The mother scolded the barangay officials for disturbing her.

When the barangay officials escorted the BB163 team, led by a social worker, to Wilson house, the mother changed her tone and became apologetic for not going to the barangay hall. She started to relate why her husband, a security guard, had been punishing the child.

She said she was having difficulty in disciplining Wilson. She described the boy as stubborn and naughty. She said he often would not come home straight from his class that ended at 10 a.m., and she would worry. Sometimes, he came home at night, she said.

When he did this, she said, she could not control her temper and would threaten to burn the boy. Once, she bit him for being uncontrollable, she said.

It was later discovered that Philip's parents were always fighting. During the interview, the social worker observed that Wilson did not talk or approach his mother. He said he did not want to go back home.

When the officials told the mother that Wilson would be placed in the temporary care of BB163, she did not seem affected at all.

Wilson was later submitted to a medico-legal examination at the East Avenue medical Center. He was found to have multiple abrasions on the thighs, arms and neck. Marks of human bite were seen on his arms.

The surgeon on duty said the boy's injuries could incapacitate him or require medical attendance if the whipping continued.

After the boy was placed in the BB Children's Home, his parents were again interviewed and counseled on child abuse laws and legal sanctions. They listened but so far, they have not shown any interest in changing their attitude toward their son.

For the past year, Wilson has been undergoing professional counseling and engaging in therapeutic activities such as pottery making, drawing and music and in recreational, social, spiritual activities that can help him address his feelings. He is a regular second grader at a public elementary school.

Throughout this time, his parents never visited him on the scheduled family visit days.

The concerned ones are studying if the boy should be put in the care of his maternal grandparents in the province. If this is not possible, he might be placed in another long-term residential care facility for further case management.

Meanwhile, he has started to have a normal boy's routine; playful and defiant at times. He sometimes gets involved in petty quarrels with other boys his age. He also tends to fight back when provoked.

His flagellation days may be over, but whether his love for his parents will be resurrected remains to be seen.

DENR hauls off toxic waste from Bulacan town, dumps it in another

By Agnes Donato and Carmela Reyes

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Heherson Alvarez has ordered the removal of 39 sealed drums of toxic wastes found in a dumpsite in Sapang Palay, San Jose Del Monte City, Bulacan, after about 50 scavengers were reported hospitalized due to chemical poisoning on Tuesday.

But the Department of Environment and Natural Resources team in charge of the removal was ordered to take the toxic wastes to a waste treatment plant in Balagtas, also in Bulacan.

The report of the mass poisoning drove an urban poor group yesterday to demand the total closure of the 2.1-hectare dumpsite in Sapang Palay.

The lethal toxins also killed three dogs that happened to stray on the dumpsite, according to engineer Thelma Bautista of the city government's environment office.

Alvarez has ordered environment officials to remove the empty drums found by police on the site on Wednesday.

Lormelyn Claudio, environmental management bureau chief for Central Luzon, facilitated the hauling of the drums and took these to the compound of the Inchem Industries, the only waste treatment firm in Bulacan.

She said the contents of the drums will be examined to determine their level of toxicity. The wastes will then be kept in a safe place to prevent poisoning, she added.

Claudio said the Inchem Industries in Balagtas has the capacity to treat the toxic wastes.

On Tuesday, 49 scavengers, mostly children, were taken to hospitals after they reportedly inhaled toxic wastes that came from the drums illegally dumped in Sapang Palay Monday night.

Claudio said they will issue a notice of violation to the Universal Textiles which was suspected to be the source of the toxic wastes, and to Rota Industries which transported the wastes.

She said the two firms violated Republic Act 6969 or the Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Act of 1990.

Claudio said Universal Textiles has no resources to treat and properly dispose of the expired powder materials for dyeing cloth.

Rota Industries, on the other hand, failed to register and ensure a safe area for the hauled hazardous wastes.

Claudio said the city government can also be held liable for failing to detect and prevent the illegal dumping of the poisonous wastes.

The Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap (Kadamay) in San Jose del Monte City urged local officials to turn the Sapang Palay dumpsite into a housing project to benefit the poor.

Tina Nantes, chairperson of Kadamay-SJDM, hit the city government for its alleged failure to provide people with jobs and for supposedly "making their livelihood dependent on the garbage being dumped by multinational corporations."

"It is high time (for city officials to) utilize the productive labor of the people, rather than further expose them to toxic and chemical poisons," Nantes said.

Kadamay-SJDM also pressed the city government to extend immediate help and assistance to all victims, many of whom are confined in the East Avenue Medical Center.

According to reports, the scavengers began to suffer severe headaches after they encountered "white and yellow powder" in the air.

I remember Rico

By Jose Javier Reyes
Contributor

YAN (third from right) at the bar of Tequila Joe's with his partners.

I WAS in the middle of writing an out-of-town episode for "Whattamen" when Bibeth Siguion-Reyna called: Her sister-in-law now on vacation in New York made a long distance query about a text message she received about the death of Rico Yan.

I laughed. I assumed that even on Holy Week, some sicko was going around with a piece of sensational lie, the kind that sends show biz talk shows into epileptic attacks. I told Bibeth this was most likely to be just another one of those tidbits floated around by very bored people who have nothing better to do with their lives.

I just finished speaking with Bibeth when I received a text message about Rico's death. It was from the executive producer of "Whattamen," the sitcom that starred Rico and his friends Dominic Ochoa and Marvin Agustin. This time I knew it was true.

I was speechless for about a few seconds before I called up our Weng Cestina, our EP. She was in tears. She gave me the details about this completely shocking incident. How Dominic found Rico in rigor mortis.

I did not even know that Rico had just split up from Claudine Barretto. All the promotions of their last movie, "Got to Believe," painted a scenario so picture-perfect that any gullible fan would think Rico and Claudine would board Cinderella's carriage made of pumpkin and fly off to some romantic Neverland.

I did not even hear all those anecdotes about the cold shoulder, the petty fights and the real life dramatic events that transpired between the two even while they were promoting their film.

At this point, these morsels of data were unimportant. A young man of 25 was dead. I was stupefied because I was right smack in the middle of writing a script for one of his TV, my imagination completely immersed in his character, trying to sort out convolutions of plot and language to elicit ratings-friendly humor. I could not help but remember how this was the same young man I met years ago, looking very much the way he will be remembered by his fans today.

I was never close to Rico Yan. Working in films only allows a few weeks, maybe months, to be in constant touch or to be exposed to the physical presence of an actor. In Rico's case, I never saw him as a "star," only that little boy who was hanging around the old wing of ABS-CBN when life in that studio was so much simpler.

There were auditions and look-sees for a series that never materialized—a facsimile of "Beverly Hills 90210" or something like that. He looked like a college boy then, huddled together with other young people like Red Sternberg and Hans Montenegro.

Vulnerability

Rico exuded that La Sallista presence that I was most familiar with. And, even then, he knew how to use his dimples and boyish vulnerability to charm his way through any situation or conversation. He was smart, eloquent and had the kind of wit that came rarely with young people who are more preoccupied with being seen rather than being truly heard. You sensed that this was not the run-of-the-mill sort of youngster who wanted to barge into show biz for the fun and the power.

Even then, when he was still so unconscious of the rewards and repercussions of being public property, Rico Yan had a good head on his shoulders.

The ABS-CBN Talent Center eventually launched Rico in their first batch of Star Circles. Photographed and groomed, the college boy put himself into the mold that would elicit unconditional adulation from fans.

What they saw was this two-dimensional figure of a brown-skinned, smiling-eyed young man who spoke good English but never foisted his educated ways to the point of condescension. He didn't only have intelligence but also determination to blend into the scene, to play for the audience, to submit to the rituals necessary for building a box-office love team.

Thinking actor

One thing most necessary for actors is the intelligence that discerns emotions, facilitates interpretation and gains access to interaction with fellow actors. A thinking actor spares any director of 80 percent of the trouble. And there are also the other actors who are marvelous because of the magic of editing and dubbing.

Not Rico. Sure, he did not display the faculties of a thespian, but no one ever required him of that. He was being groomed as a matinee idol, the most commercial kind of performer who could sell movies by simply flashing a toothpaste smile and kissing his partner in public, whether in a studio or during a mall appearance.

Immediately after "Ama, Ina, Anak," I was thrown into the principal photography of "Radio Romance." This time Rico was paired with Claudine. There were about 30 actors in that interwoven story about Valentine and Rico had to play a geek to Claudine's computer nerd. He was more relaxed then, maybe because of the sheer number of actors who populated the set. And, besides, this was no heavy drama that required pails of tears and Famas-award moments.

New man

When I saw him again, it was years later—at a taping of the Sharon Cuneta show whih tackled the subject of friendship. I was with Manny Castaneda and Rico was with Miguel Zubiri.

It was a different Rico. He had already mastered the trappings of the business: He exuded the kind of confidence that could be acquired only after so many interviews, too many press conferences and uncountable handshaking and waving to crowds.

He still looked very much the same, boyish charm with dimples and all, but he had grown up. At a very early age, he found his niche and chartered his course in the ugly maze of the entertainment industry.

Now, in the middle of writing a script, the news was confirmed. Rico was dead at 25.

Questions

I try to figure out what moral lesson exists amid all this, but I am still quite confused.

There is such a thing as perfect timing, knowing when to exit, most especially when an actor is at the height of his career and popularity, when he has become a host of a top-rating daily variety show and is a major endorser and has still not gotten over the euphoria of a hit movie.

One begins to think of the irony of mortality, the universal jest involving untimely deaths and illogical conclusions. How can someone this young leave this existence just at the time when everything seems to be going for him? How can a well-scrubbed, educated boy-next door on vacation with friends leave us just like that?

Of course, questions such as these are not for us to answer.

Real people

Death turns stars into people, real people. Whether they are mind-boggling incidents such as the brutal murder of Nida Blanca or this incomprehensible departure of Rico Yan, suddenly the larger-than-life characters are diminished to the same stature as the fans.

They, too are mortal human beings who hurt as much as they laugh, who need to be assured even as their mere presence can be assuring to millions.

We can plunder all the available cliches about the two faces of show business yet still fail to explore or make people understand that the spotlight, applause and well-lit publicity photos only constitute the utmost tip of the iceberg.

Sure, the government imposes a 20 percent withholding tax on the assumed bloated earnings of stars. It is probably because the larger public only considers that magical media persona, that face and body that sell, but no one sees the endless days, tireless and sleepless nights of working. No one cares about the personal pains of the entertainers because they are meant only to do that...entertain.

Not wasted

The fact remains that a 25-year-old actor with so much promise left his fans without so much as saying goodbye. Yes, it is "sayang" but then I thought,"How can this be so?" In a span of less than a decade, the college boy has succeeded in endearing himself to so many, including his co-workers, his fellow actors and everyone else who had the opportunity to be with him.

That is not "sayang" because even if he lived for only two and a half decades, what he accomplished was so much more than what others may have done in twice or even thrice that amount of time.

Rico Yan will be sorely missed. The rumors will continue. The expressions of grief will flow. There will be uncomfortable silences in the studio for the next few days, or weeks.

Then life will go on. The lights will be turned on the Punch-and-Judy routines will return with predictable gusto. And Rico will not be there except in the hearts and minds of those who knew him, or thought they owned a part of him.

7 dead in Manila

By Jerome Aning

FIVE persons were stabbed to death, while two were shot on Holy Thursday and Good Friday in Manila.

Chief Insp. Juanito Taluban, head of the city police homicide section, identified the four stabbing victims as Roberto Velario, 21, Armando Dayao, 54, Victoria Robles, 48, Juanita Bacendo, 83.

Victims Bacendo, Dayao and Robles were attacked inside their homes on Holy Thursday.

Bacendo was found by her two daughters dead on her bed in their house on San Antonio Street, Malate around 11:30 p.m. She was stabbed three times while her entire room was in disarray.

Driver Armando Dayao, 54, a resident of Interior 49, Paltok Street, Sta. Mesa, was also attacked while he was sleeping.

According to his wife Anita, Dayao was alive when she woke up about 3 a.m. She returned from the Divisoria market about 5 a.m. and was horrified to see her husband dead on their bed, with at least three stab wounds in the abdomen.

Robles, a barbeque vendor, was sleeping on the ground floor of her apartment when she was attacked. Her fellow tenant Carmelita Batiller said she was sleeping upstairs when she heard sounds of a scuffle about 3 a.m.

Batiller said she quickly lit a candle, went downstairs and saw Robles sprawled dead on the floor. She said she also saw a man wearing a black bonnet mask leaving the scene.

Velario, a street vendor, was sleeping in his stall on C.M. Recto Avenue about 5 a.m. Good Friday when a man plunged a dagger in his left armpit.

Velario, a resident of Fajardo Street, Tondo, was pronounced dead at the Gat Andres Bonifacio Memorial Medical Center.

The fifth stabbing victim remained unidentified. He was stabbed by some men who were chasing him on MacArthur Bridge, Sta. Cruz side around 10 p.m. Holy Thursday, police said.

The man survived the stabbing but he was unconscious and was left bleeding in the middle of the bridge, when a vehicle ran him down, killing him instantly.

The victim was described as aged 35 to 40, oval-faced, medium built, about 5-foot-7, and clad only in a pair of black shorts. The words "Bolo & Gun" were tattooed on his upper left shoulder.

In Malate, Carlos Frayna, 26, was killed while his brother Joel, 31, was seriously injured during a fistfight with their uncle Reynaldo Frayna, 74, and a certain "Nestor" on Enrique Street before dawn of Good Friday.

One of the suspects apparently had a gun and opened fire on the brothers.

In Binondo, Stephen Kang Tau Tung, 35, a Hong Kong passport holder and owner of Overland Marketing on Jaboneros Street, was cleaning his .45-caliber pistol when the gun accidentally went off, hitting him in the mouth about 3 p.m. Friday.

A witness told police the businessman was blowing into the muzzle of the gun when the accident occurred.

Meralco 'bleeds' consumers dry, Bayan Muna claims

By Agnes E. Donato

"MERALCO has been bleeding its customers at least P1.2 billion a month since January 2000 for power that has yet to be generated, distributed and consumed by consumers."

Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran bared this yesterday, as he claimed that Meralco's contract with its sister firm, First Gas Power, is to blame for the controversial Purchased Power Adjustment (PPA).

Beltran also said the PPA can be lowered by as much as P1 per kilowatt hour if the Macapagal-Arroyo government reviews the contract between the two Lopez-controlled companies.

First Gas Power, he said, is a Batangas-based independent power producer contracted by the Manila Electric Company (Meralco) in 1998 to supply around 40 percent of its power supply requirement, based on its projected increase in consumer demand at that time.

This contract reportedly required Meralco to pay "minimum contracted costs" to First Gas Power even in the latter's development stage, and even if consumer demand is lower than Meralco's available supply.

"Data from the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) show that because of this, Meralco paid First Gas at least P13.28 billion from January 2000 to December 2001, even if consumers were not able to consume a single kilowatt-hour from First Gas, and even if the latter had yet to be fully operational," Beltran explained.

"This means Meralco has been bleeding its customers at least P1.2 billion a month since January 2000," he added.

In December 2001 alone, Meralco paid First Gas Power P1.97 billion, or 32.5 percent of the total amount of purchased power for that month, which was pegged at P8.45 billion.

"This despite the fact that First Gas did not contribute a single kilowatt to the P1.9 gigawatts supplied by Meralco in December last year," Beltran said.

Bayan Muna estimated that P2.97/kwh paid as PPA by Meralco consumers that month could have been reduced to P1.96/kwh if the PPA paid to First Gas was removed from the computation.

The PPA, which eats up more than half of an ordinary consumer's electric bill, has been the subject of much protest from Meralco customers.

"We call on the Macapagal administration and the inter-agency task force deputized to review the controversial IPP contracts to act decisively on the issue of the PPA being charged by Meralco so it can pay for First Gas' nonexistent energy supply," Beltran said.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Ogie and Michelle expecting their second baby

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

OGIE Alcasid is excited about fatherhood the second time around. His wife, former Miss Australia **Michelle van Eimeren**, is four months pregnant with their second baby. And Ogie wants a boy this time. Their first-born, **Leila**, is now four years old.

"I will not deny that I want a boy, but Leila wants a baby sister," Ogie shares. "I guess she's even more excited than Michelle and me about the coming of the new baby."

Ogie and Michelle, married for six years now, planned their second baby.

"Late last year, I came home from Canada and Michelle told me when I arrived that she wanted to have another baby," Ogie recalls. "Last December, when we spent Christmas with her parents in Australia, she was feeling sick. I already had a hunch she was pregnant and it turned out to be correct.

"She's due in September, but it just dawned on me that I'm going to be a father again."

He says Michelle has been having a harder time now than when she was pregnant with Leila. The couple was supposed to spend Holy Week in Tokyo, since Michelle wanted to visit her old friends from Sophia University where she graduated.

"But her doctor did not allow her to travel," Ogie says. "So we're spending Holy Week here at home."

Home for the Alcasids has been Acropolis in Libis, Quezon City, since late last year. They gave up their modest townhouse in Cubao.

One room in the new house has been turned into an area for Michelle's pottery, a new hobby.

"We have a roomful of pots and probably a ton of clay," Ogie says. "Even when Michelle was still in Australia, she was already taking up seminars and classes in pottery."

In Manila, Michelle took lessons under noted potter Jon Pettyjohn. She plans to bring over two famous potters from Australia to conduct workshops and seminars here. Ogie says his wife wants the Philippines and Australia to have an exchange of arts through pottery.

Michelle is set to give birth in September, but this time in Sydney, where her parents are based. She gave birth to Leila in Brisbane.

Ogie discloses he now has a very good relationship with his in-laws, who initially didn't favor his marriage to their only daughter. Michelle's parents didn't show up when she and Ogie were married in a Batangas cathedral in 1996.

"I kind of understand how they felt at that time because Michelle is an only girl," Ogie says. "But now, my mother-in-law visits us thrice a year. Michelle's dad even has friends here already. He takes the jeep when he goes around. He also wants to ride the *calesa*. They both love Manila."

Ogie admits he often feels guilty that he has so much work that keeps him away from his family. He has three TV shows—"SOP" and "Bubble Gang" on GMA, and the nightly game show "Family Feud" on ABC 5.

"That's why I make it a point to keep one day free for both of them," Ogie says. "Tuesdays, I don't accept any commitments. I turn off my cell phone. I don't write songs. I don't even answer calls. I spend the day with my family."

"Michelle gave up show biz because she wanted to be a full-time mom. I have to work, but she understands what I do. She is very supportive of me."

Ogie also finds time to perform in occasional concerts here and abroad. On April 18, he returns to Onstage at Greenbelt in Makati City for a "One Night Only" concert.

"One Night Only" is produced by **Jonathan Wee**, the same guy behind the successful Onstage concert of the Apo Hiking Society late last year.

Ogie's special guest is **Regine Velasquez**, who recorded some of his hit compositions. Musical director is **Tats Faustino**, who helped Ogie prepare a repertoire of past and present hits.

The concert also features the fast-rising all-male pop band Casanova.

"We don't have a *yaya* so we do everything when it comes to taking care of our daughter," Ogie says. "But Leila is very independent. At 4, she can do things on her own like eat, take a bath or dress up."

He wants Leila to study in Australia when she starts grade school.

"One time, I talked to **Robin Padilla** on a plane ride to Sydney," Ogie shares. "He was visiting his family on the Gold Coast and he told me how he's been working so hard to send his kids to school in Australia. He likes the education system there. It's expensive but it's good."

ALCASID. Parenting at home

'S2pid Luv,' the movie

IF YOU still haven't heard of the rap group Salbakuta, you must be in a time warp.

Salbakuta popularized "S2pid Luv," the rap spoof of **Barbra Streisand**'s "Evergreen."

After the hit rap tune comes the movie of the same title.

Viva Films' "S2pid Luv" stars rapper-comedians **Andrew E** and **Blakdyak**, with singer-actress **Angelika de la Cruz**. Blakdyak was last seen on the big screen with **Janno Gibbs** in "Weyt a Minute, Kapeng Mainit," while Andrew E also starred with Janno in "Tusong Twosome."

Angelika recently played first-time leading lady to **Robin Padilla** in "Hari ng Selda."

"S2PID Luv" Andrew E. and Angelika de la Cruz.

Atlantis Productions presents new musical

JET Pangan, Bituin Escalante and Michael de Mesa topbill the musical "Tick Tick Boom," by "Rent" writer Jonathan Larson.

Jet Pangan is the lead singer of the Dawn, a rock band which recorded such hits as "Salamat," "Enveloped Ideas," "Dreams" and many more. His band's album, "Prodigal Sun," is currently available in record bars nationwide and is a staple in the country's album charts.

Bituin Escalante continues to enthrall audiences with her spectacular voice. She has headlined a lot of concerts and is a theater veteran, seen last in "Rent."

Actor-director Michael de Mesa is one of the most respected names in the entertainment industry, having starred in numerous films and TV shows. He is now a mainstay of the daily afternoon program, "Biglang Sibol" on GMA 7.

"Tick Tick Boom" is a semi-autobiographical rock musical about an artist named Jonathan striving to write a show that will redefine the landscape of musical theater before he turns 30.

It was singled out by Time Magazine as one of the best musicals of 2001.

"Tick Tick Boom" is produced by Atlantis Productions, which opened the year with the Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winning Broadway play "Proof" in Manila with Lea Salonga in the lead.

"Tick Tick Boom" premieres at the RCBC Theater on July 26 and runs until Aug. 11.

Reservations for show buying are now being taken. For more information on "Tick Tick Boom" and future productions, including "The Rocky Horror Show," contact Atlantis Productions at 892-7078.

AGUILAR. Promotes his latest album

'Himig ng Dekada'

WATCH "Himig ng Dekada '90" TV special on "Myx Chopseuy Home Grown," April 1, 1:30 p.m. on Studio 23.

"Himig ng Dekada" is an album tribute to the era that launched the careers of today's rock stars.

The compilation includes the hit singles from Eraserheads, Rivermaya, Color It Red, Yano, Francis M and Sugar Hiccup.

The album is released by BMG Records Pilipinas.

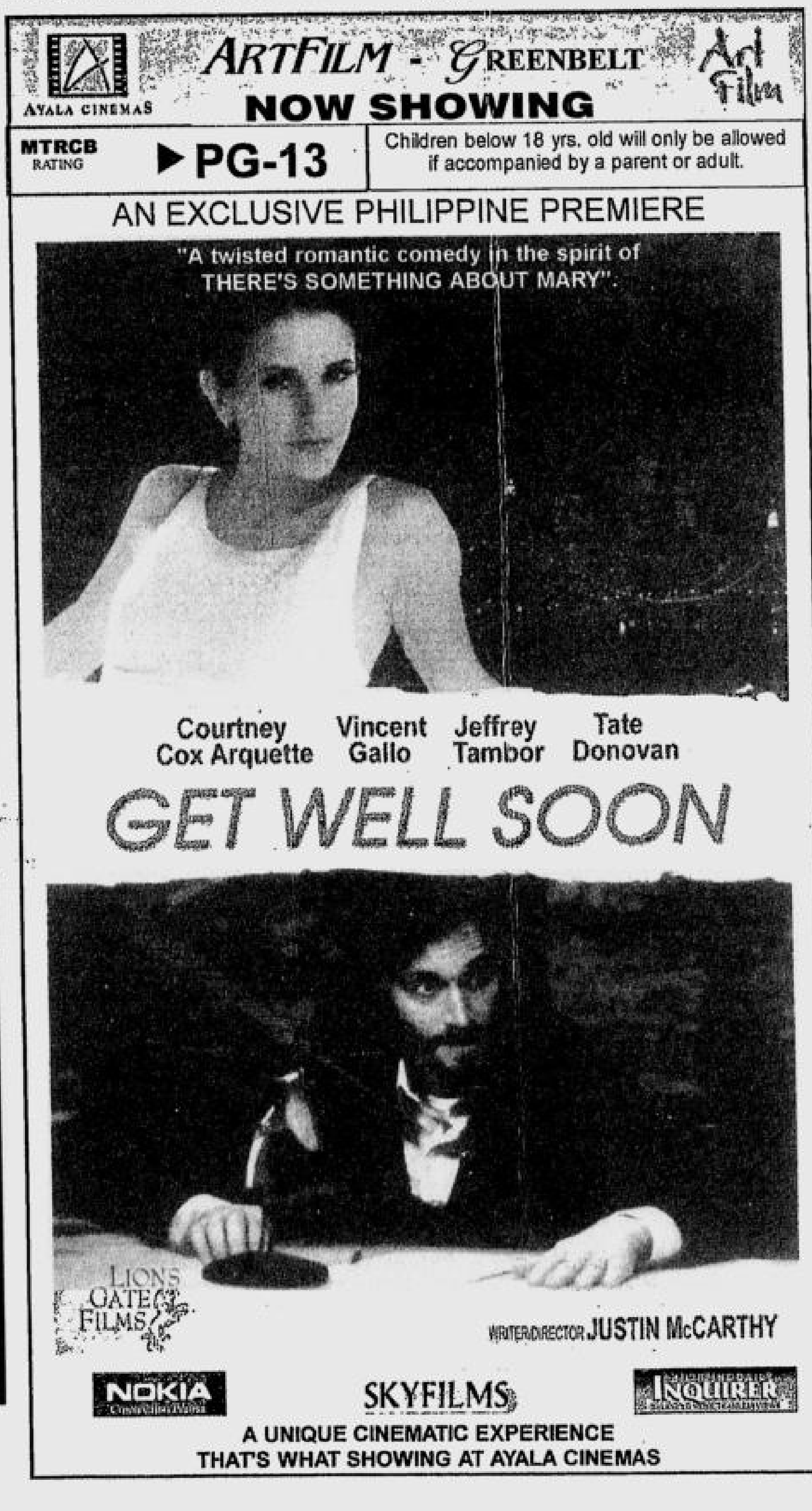
Ka Freddie in Davao

FREDDIE Aguilar flies to SM City Davao for a mall show to promote his latest album under Concorde Records.

The "Anak" singer and composers will perform inspiring numbers including the singles "Hulog ng Langit" and "Sinta Ko." Joining him in the show is Anto-nette Martinez.

Surprise guests like Asiatec Music artist Michael Laygo will also entertain mall-goers. He will sing his newest single, the Tagalog version of the jukebox hit, "Eternally."

STARS of Jonathan Larson's "Tick Tick Boom:" (from left) Jett Pangan, Bituin Escalante and Michael de Mesa.



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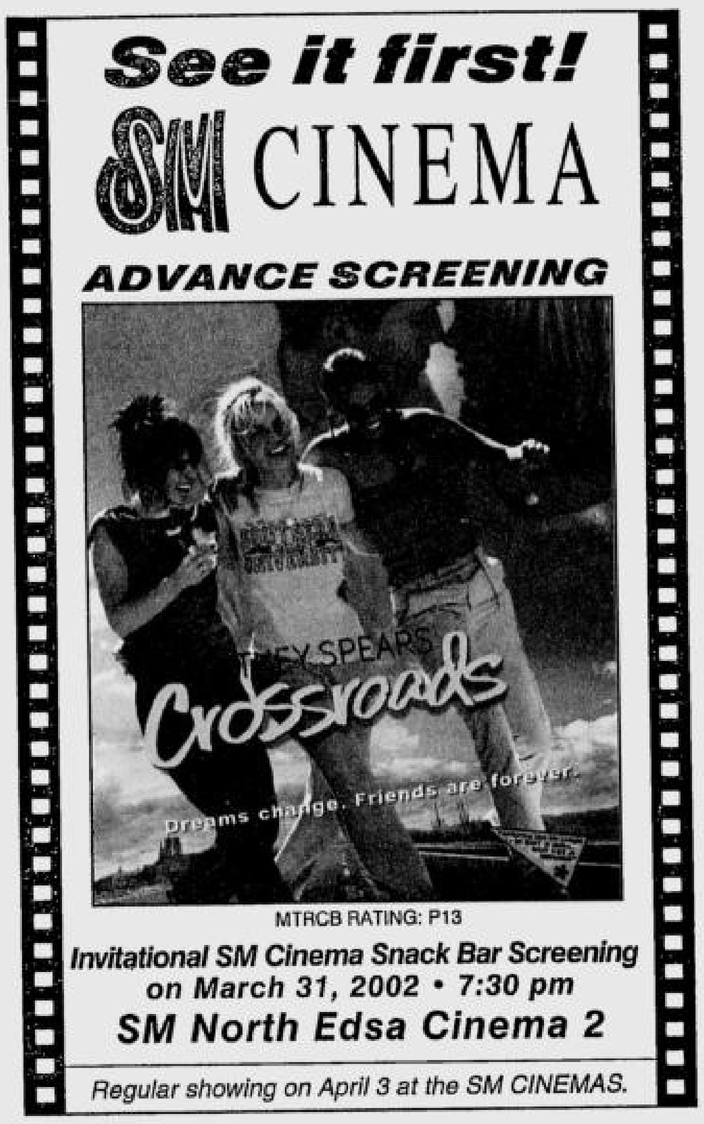

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10	TIME MACHINE
11	GOT 2 BELIEVE
12	BANDITS

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8	TIME MACHINE
9	CLOSED
10	CLOSED
11	CLOSED
12	CLOSED

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8	TIME MACHINE
9	WE WERE SOLDIERS
10	GOT 2 BELIEVE

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5	13 GHOSTS
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8	ICE AGE

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2	CLOSED
3	ICE AGE
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5	WE WERE SOLDIERS
6	NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
7	CLOSED
8	EVA

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2	TIME MACHINE
3	BLADE 2

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3	BLADE 2
4	HARI NG SELDA

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6

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3 (DOLBY)	TIME MACHINE
4	JOHN Q

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3 (DTS)	ICE AGE
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4	SOON TO OPEN

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4 (DTS)	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED

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3 (DTS)	ICE AGE
4	MASARAP HABANG MAINIT
5	JOHN Q

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2	ICE AGE
3	TIME MACHINE

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3	ICE AGE

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3	GOT 2 BELIEVE

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2	ICE AGE
3	RESERVE

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1	RESERVE

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(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	HARI NG SELDA
2	BANDITS
3	BIBINGKA

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	ICE AGE
2	WE WERE SOLDIERS
3	D-TOX
4	HARI NG SELDA

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	TIME MACHINE
2	HARI NG SELDA
3 (DTS)	ICE AGE
4	NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE

***Movies are subject to change without prior notice**

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

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633- 7641 loc. 279

1 THX	TIME MACHINE
2	BLADE 2
3	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
4	HARI NG SELDA
5	ICE AGE
6	TIME MACHINE
7	THE MAJESTIC
8	BANDITS
9	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
10	JOHN Q

Ermita
536 -7809- 12

1	BLADE 2
2	BANDITS
3	HARI NG SELDA
4	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
5	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
6	ICE AGE
7	TIME MACHINE

Metro East -
Marcos hway 687- 8193 / 8780

1	THE MAJESTIC
2	ICE AGE
3	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
4	BLADE 2
5	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
6	HARI NG SELDA
7	TIME MACHINE
8	BANDITS

Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

1	BLADE 2
2	BANDITS
3	HARI NG SELDA
4	ICE AGE
5	TIME MACHINE
6	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
7	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
8	THE MAJESTIC

Imus
471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1	BLADE 2
2	HARI NG SELDA
3	ICE AGE
4	TIME MACHINE
5	BANDITS
6	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED

Bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459

1	WE WERE SOLDIERS
2	JIMMY NEUTRON
3	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
4	NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
5	D-TOX
6	RAT RACE

Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

1	WE WERE SOLDIERS
2	ICE AGE
3	NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
4	HARI NG SELDA
5	EVA
6	A BEATIFUL MIND

Star Mills-
Sn. Fernando, Pamp. 875- 1927
961-5318 / 5270

1	HARI NG SELDA
2	ICE AGE
3	TIME MACHINE
4	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
5	HARI NG SELDA
6	HARI NG SELDA

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	JOHN Q
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	HARI NG SELDA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	BLADE 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	TIME MACHINE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	ICE AGE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	QUEEN OF THE DAMNE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	BANDITS
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	HARI NG SELDA
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	BLADE 2
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	HUBOG / TOO MUCH FLESH
ODEON	JOHN Q
ODEON-2	BANDITS
ROBEN	SNAKE CHARMER
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	OTHER SIDE OF LOVE / AMERICAN PIE 2
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	BIBINGKA
REMAR	SNAKE CHARMER
REMAR-2	BIBINGKA
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	BIBINGKA
B	EVA LASON KAY ADAN
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	TIME MACHINE
CINEMA-2	ICE AGE
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	HARI NG SELDA
CINEMA-2	JOHN Q
CINEMA-3	THE MAJESTIC
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BLADE 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	JIMMY NEUTRON
CINEMA-6	GOT 2 BELIEVE
CINEMA-7	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
CINEMA-8	BANDITS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TIME MACHINE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BLADE 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	ICE AGE
CINEMA-12	ICE AGE
CINEMA-14	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
CINEMA-15	HARI NG SELDA
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	JIMMY NEUTRON
CINEMA-2	TIME MACHINE
CINEMA-3	ICE AGE
CINEMA-4	ICE AGE
CINEMA-5	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
CINEMA-6	BLADE 2
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

RELAX & SEE A MOVIE

MTRCB RATING ▶ R Restricted | Strictly for ADULTS
No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

Friends don't let friends date psycho women from hell.
EVIL WOMAN

Wild, sexy new comedy!

'Evil Woman' opens April 3 !

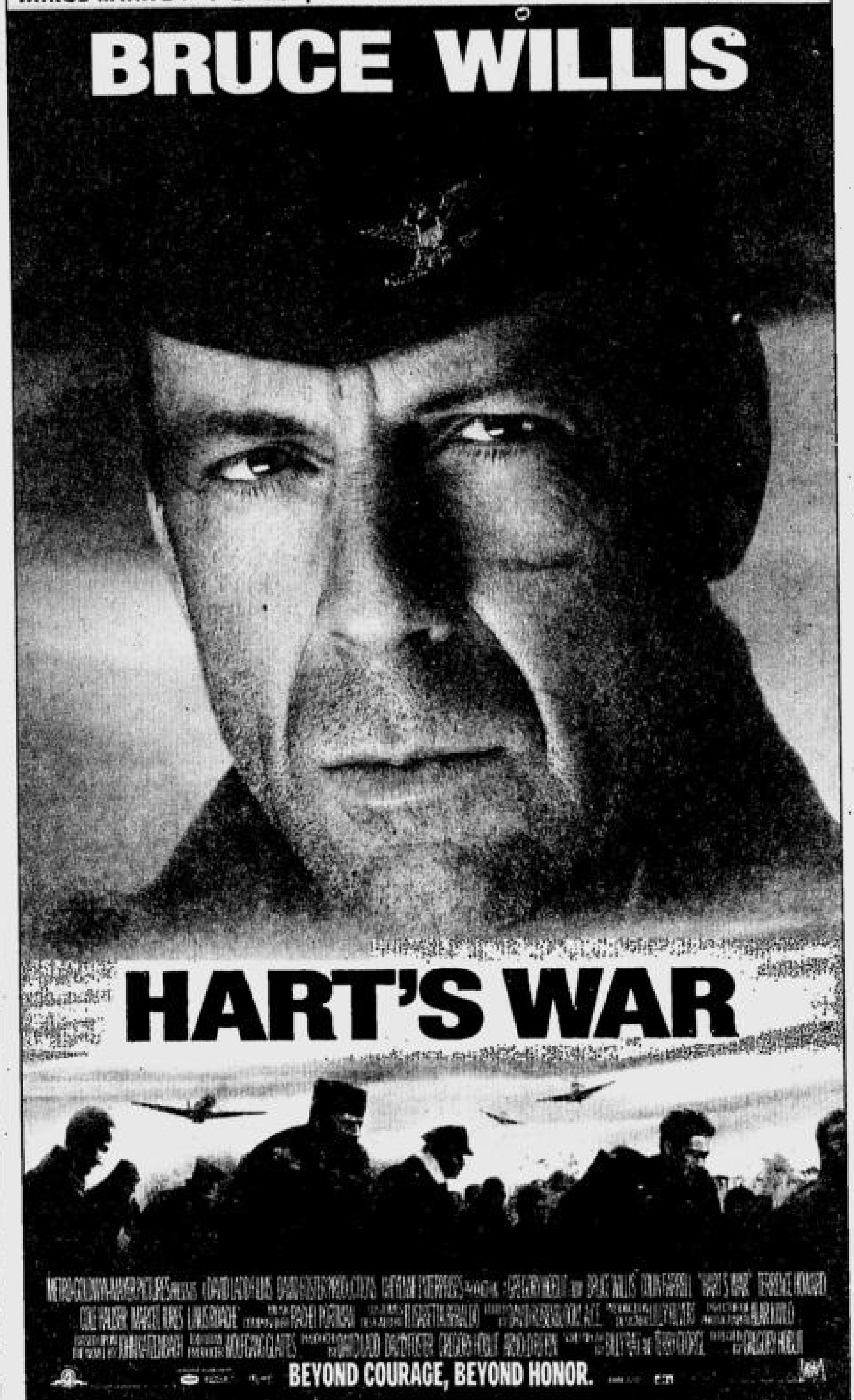
In the tradition of their hit laugh-a-minute movies, **Jason Biggs** of **AMERICAN PIE**, **Jack Black** of **SHALLOW HAL** and **Steve Zahn** of **DR. DOLITTLE 2** join comic forces in the hot and sexy new comedy from Columbia Pictures, EVIL WOMAN.

Darren (Biggs), Wayne (Zahn) and J.D. (Black) have been best of friends since 5th grade. They swore nothing could come between them...un til she came along.

Judith (Amanda Peet) sizzles with sex appeal but is really a cold-hearted and manipulative bitch. She digs her claws into Darren and snatches him from the friendship!

Darren must be rescued at all cost from the clutches of the evil woman, launching a series of side-splitting misadventures. **(Rated R for nudity and sexual humor.)**

MTRCB RATING ➤ PG 13 | Children below 13 years old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.


BRUCE WILLIS
HART'S WAR
BEYOND COURAGE, BEYOND HONOR.

OPENS APRIL 10 !

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
DOLBY DIGITAL
NOW SHOWING

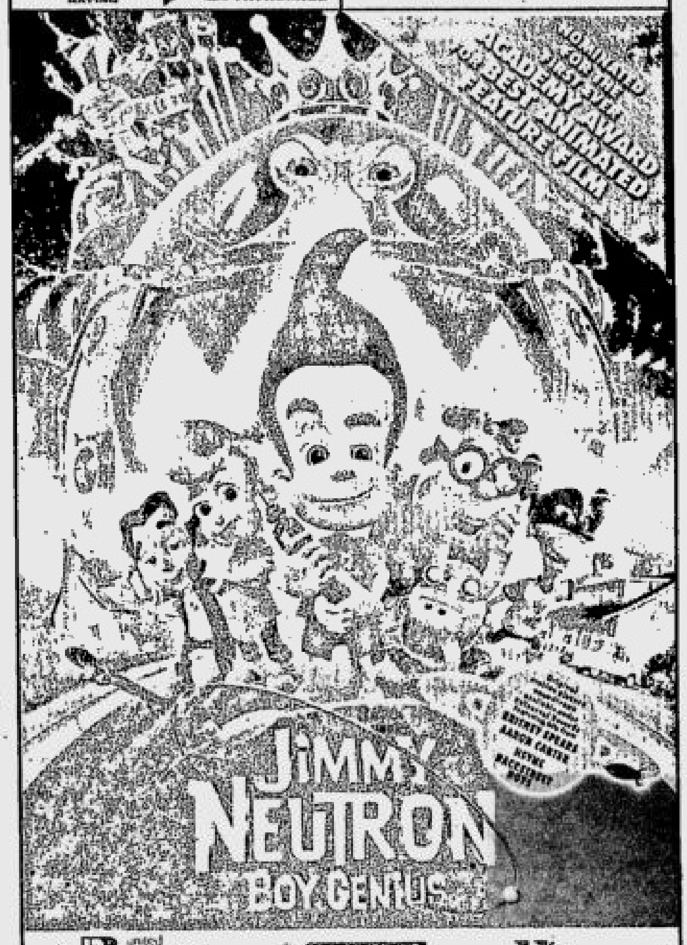
CINEMA 1: BLADE 2
12:05, 2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 9:45
P 13

CINEMA 2: ICE AGE
11:00, 12:50, 2:40, 4:30, 6:20, 8:10, 10:00
GP

Matinee: P80.00 - Screenings before 5:00pm, Monday thru Friday (Free Seating)
Reserved Seating: P120.00 - After 5:00pm; Saturday, Sunday, Holidays
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

MUSIC MUSEUM
MUSIC MUSEUM APRIL 12 & 13 KUH LEDESMA (On Higher Ground) 9:00 PM / APRIL 19 & 20 K NA K KA NA BA? (ALLAN K.) 9:00 PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL . 721-6726 OR 721-

MTRCB RATING ▶ G GENERAL PATRONAGE | ALL AGES ADMITTED


NOMINATED FOR THE ACADEMY AWARD FOR BEST ANIMATED FEATURE FILM
JIMMY NEUTRON BOY GENIUS

united international pictures | Universal

NOW SHOWING

REVENGE, ROMANCE, ACTION !
COUNT ON IT APRIL 3 !

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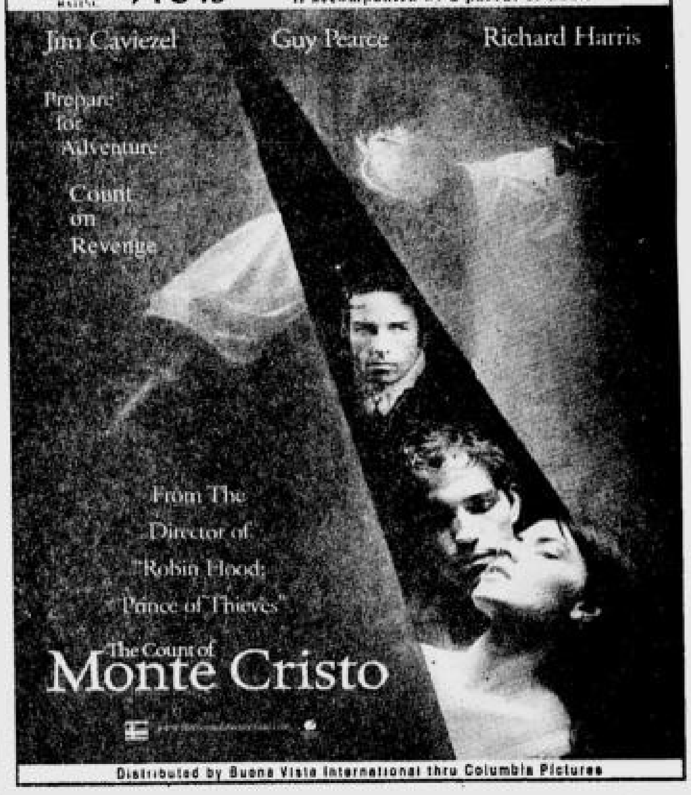
Jim Caviezel
Guy Pearce
Richard Harris
Prepare for Adventure
Count on Revenge
From The Director of "Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves"
The Count of Monte Cristo

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

---

$48,000,000 THE HIGHEST WEEKEND OPENING IN THE US THIS YEAR

MTRCB RATING ➤ G GENERAL PATRONAGE | ALL AGES ADMITTED

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Blue Sky
www.iceagemovie.com

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OPENS WEDNESDAY APRIL 3 !

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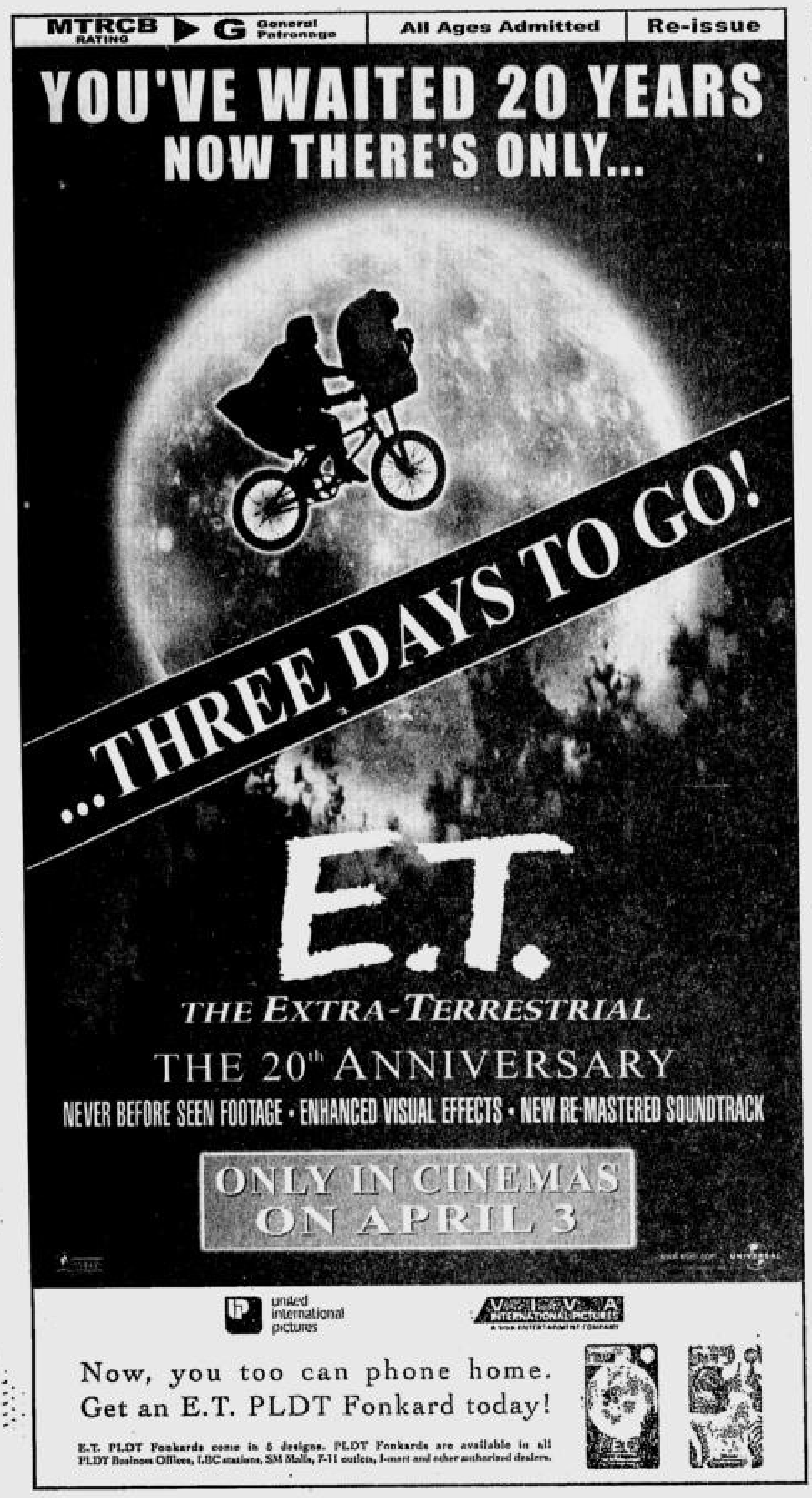
No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted

A WOMAN SEEKING LIBERATION
A LOVE THAT WIL REDEEM THEM ALL!

RODEL VELAYO
ALLONA AMOR
WINSTON ELIZALDE
CELSO AD CASTILLO as Mang Tonio
"Heart has its reasons which mind cannot understand."
and introducing DIANA ZUBIRI
ITLOG
directed by FRANCIS 'JUN' POSADAS
a SEIKO Films presentation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All Ages Admitted
Re-issue
YOU'VE WAITED 20 YEARS NOW THERE'S ONLY...
...THREE DAYS TO GO!
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THE 20th ANNIVERSARY
NEVER BEFORE SEEN FOOTAGE • ENHANCED VISUAL EFFECTS • NEW RE-MASTERED SOUNDTRACK
ONLY IN CINEMAS ON APRIL 3
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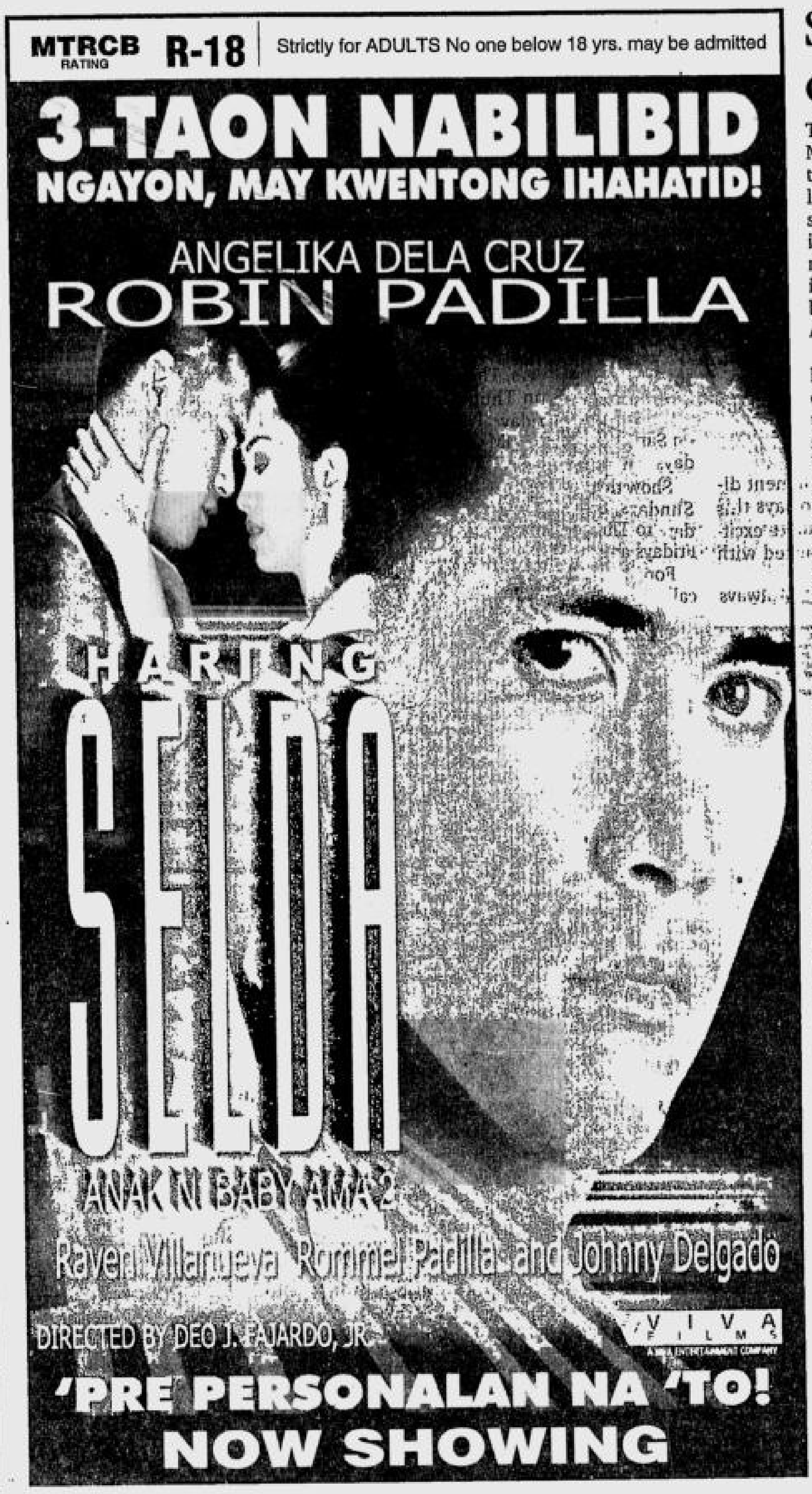
VIVA INTERNATIONAL PICTURES
Now, you too can phone home. Get an E.T. PLDT Fonkard today!
E.T. PLDT Fonkards come in 5 designs. PLDT Fonkards are available in all PLDT Business Offices, LBC stations, SM Malls, 7-11 outlets, I-mart and other authorized dealers.


MTRCB RATING R-18 Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted
3-TAON NABILIBID NGAYON, MAY KWENTONG IHAHATID!
ANGELIKA DELA CRUZ
ROBIN PADILLA
HARING SELDA
ANAK NI BABY AMA 2
Raven Villanueva Rommel Padilla and Johnny Delgado
DIRECTED BY DEO J. FAJARDO, JR.
VIVA FILMS
'PRE PERSONALAN NA 'TO!
NOW SHOWING

Singing course

THE CENTER for Pop Music Philippines, the country's first and largest training school in pop singing, will launch a new course in singing in all its branches starting April 2.

Called "Starborne Plus," the singing course does not only train one's voice and stage performance, but also offers lessons in recording and "sing and move" sessions.

The recording lesson helps an individual identify and correct mistakes in his material.

The "sing and move" training provides basic steps and movements that will enhance one's stage performance.

Butch Albarracin, Center for Pop Music Philippines founding president, said the "Starborne Plus" course curriculum was developed with the help of top recording executives, concert directors and singing stars.

The Center for Pop Music Philippines has trained unknown individuals who became singing stars. They include Roselle Nava, Dessa, Geneva Cruz, Cookie Chua, Kyla, Nikki Valdez, Wyrd, Nerissa (2001 Awit Awardee), Gian Moreno, Michael G (of Formula) and four "Miss Saigon" members—Ma-an Dionisio (Canada), Carla Guevarra (London), Joanne Ampil (Sydney) and Ima Castro (Manila).

Aimed to help singers overcome shyness and stage fright, the "Starborne" singing course is open to kids, teens and adults.

The Center for Pop Music head office is located at 73 Ermin Garcia st., Cubao, Quezon City. Call 727-5293 or 411-7310. Branches are in Makati City (833-4639), Lagro, QC (461-3026), Parañaque City (820-4326), Las Piñas City (874-5324), Cubao, QC (721-0714), Marikina City (998-0909), Roces Avenue, QC (372-1729), Dasmariñas, Cavite (416-3431), San Pedro, Laguna (869-6702) and Cebu City (234-1120).

Monthly TV docu

WWJD.com.ph will air its second monthly episode on RPN 9 at 11 tonight.

The topic is "Divorce in the Philippines."

The program, which air every last Sunday of the month, studies all sides of an issue. It does not seek whom to blame, but strives to empower viewers to see what role they, as individuals can play with regard to the issue in question.

WWJD.com.ph is hosted by Tito Pel and produced by Net Pacoli.

The program is a collaboration of volunteers who have expertise in TV production.

For new insights on enduring issues, watch WWJD.com.ph.

WARRIOR.
LEGEND.
KING.
THE ROCK
THE SCORPION KING
united international pictures
VIVA INTERNATIONAL PICTURES
FRIDAY APRIL 19
SIMULTANEOUS RELEASE WITH THE U.S.

ANG PAMBANSANG THEME SONG NGAYON PELIKULA NA!
ANDREW E.
SALBAKUTA
BLAKDYAK
ANGELIKA DELA CRUZ
MAUI TAYLOR
S2PID LUV
KRISTINE JAKA MICHAEL FLORES
DIRECTED BY AL TANTAY
VIVA
OPENS APRIL 10!

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Easter party at Hard Rock

KIDS are in for another wonderful treat in this year's Easter Sunday celebration of Hard Rock Café (HRC).

Magic, games and yummy food awaits every family that will spend Easter Sunday at HRC.

The Easter party happens from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. today. HRC has prepared a special Easter lunch buffet at P350 for adults and P230 for kids 10 years and below.

The entire family can also enjoy parlor games, exciting prizes, mascot shows, face painting and a magic show featuring some of the country's finest magicians anal illusionists.

Hard Rock entertainment director Ricky Santiago says this year's Easter party is more exciting and more jam-packed with fabulous surprises.

"We at Hard Rock Café always make sure that the annual Easter celebration is something that kids and every family could look forward to," Santiago said. "This particular celebration is filled with lots and lots of goodies and treats that every kid would surely enjoy."

On regular days, for the month of April, music buffs can also enjoy Hard Rock's nightly band gigs—Big on Mondays, Pido with Take One on Tuesdays, Q&A on Wednesdays, The Company and Divas on Thursdays, Tribe of Levi on Fridays, Passage on Saturdays and SIMM on Sundays.

Show time starts 10:30 p.m. on Sundays, 8:30 p.m. from Mondays to Thursdays and 9 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

For inquires and reservations, call 893-4661 to 64.

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

1	2	3
JIMMY NEUTRON - GP 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	TIME MACHINE - P 13 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:35, 10:00	ICE AGE - GP 11:50, 1:40, 3:30, 5:20, 7:10, 9:00
ICE AGE - GP 11:00, 12:50, 2:40, 4:30, 6:20, 8:10, 10:00	A BEAUTIFUL MIND - P 13 1:10, 3:55, 6:40, 9:30	BLADE 2 - P 13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50

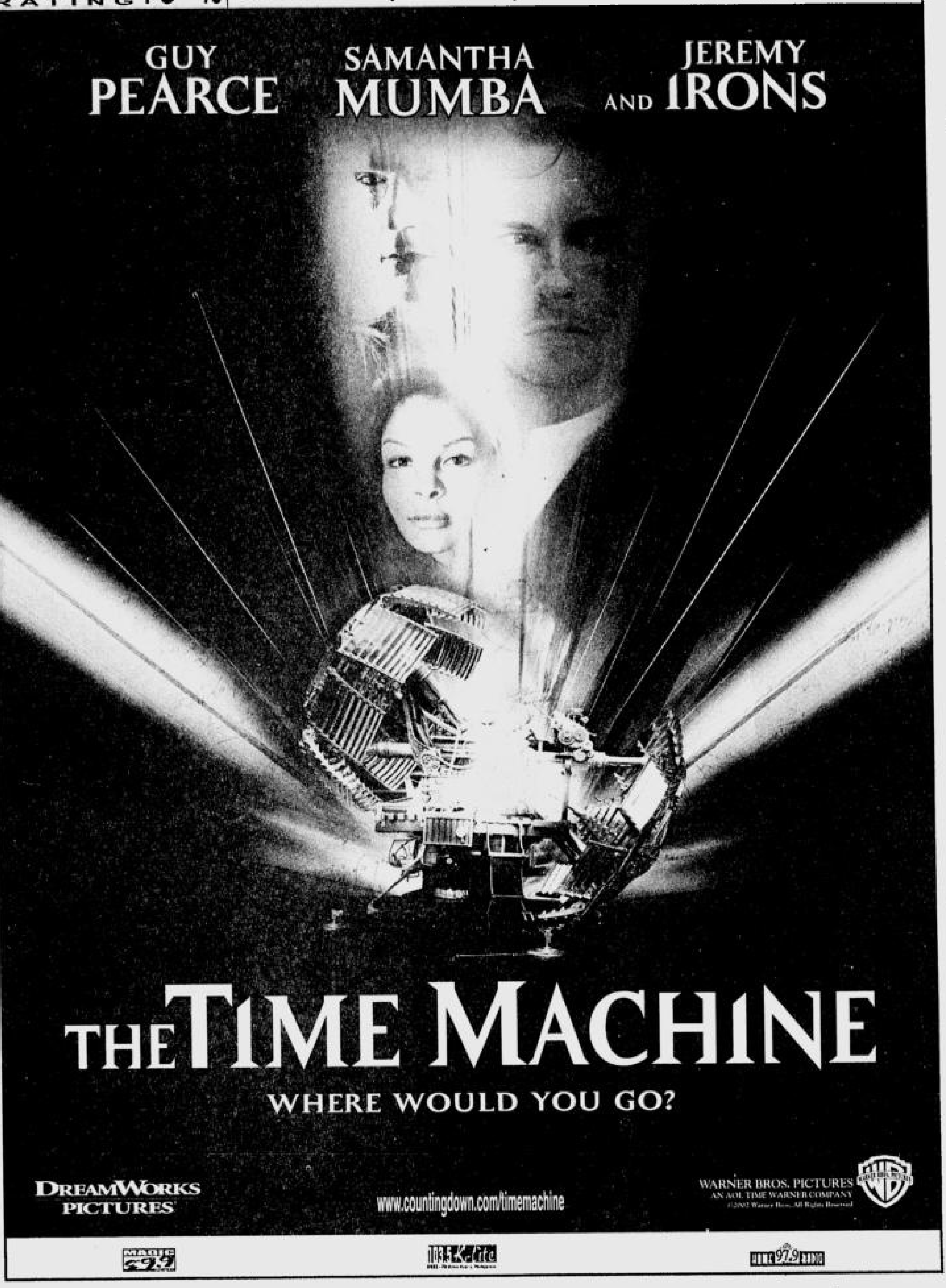
Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri.,11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT
THE TERROR WAS OVER...
MIMIC 2
DIMENSION
OPENS APRIL 10!
SKYFILMS

NOW SHOWING

MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult


GUY PEARCE
SAMANTHA MUMBA
JEREMY AND IRONS
THE TIME MACHINE
WHERE WOULD YOU GO?
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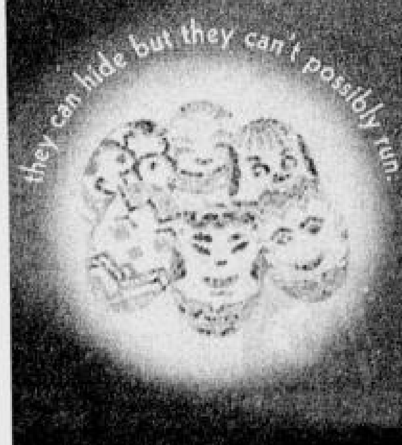
1 HARI NG SELDA	1 THE TIME MACHINE	4 AMORES PERROS (Special Screening)	1 GET WELL SOON (Phil. Premiere)	1 ICE AGE THX
2 THE TIME MACHINE	2 BLADE 2	5 JOHN Q	2 BLADE 2	2 BLADE 2
3 ICE AGE	3 BLADE 2 THX GUARANTEED SEATS	6 ICE AGE	3 ICE AGE	3 THE TIME MACHINE
4 BLADE 2		7 A BEAUTIFUL MIND	4 Onstage LANI ON SATGE APRIL 12, 13, 19, 20, 26 & 27 9:00 PM	4 A BEATIFUL MIND
				5 ICE AGE

The Ayala Events
THIS WEEK'S EVENTS
MAKATI ALABANG CEBU


they can hide but they can't possibly run.

EASTER EGG HUNT AT THE AYALA MALLS

MAKATI
Easter Egg Fun - March 31, 1pm, Glorietta Activity Center

ALABANG
Easter Fun at the Town - March 31, 4pm, Activity Center
Town Nights: Side A: March 31, Town Plaza
Freestyle: April 4 • Southborder: April 11
Theatre Drive near Promenade Entrance, 8pm

CEBU
Easter Adventure at Cebu - March 31, 3pm, Activity Center

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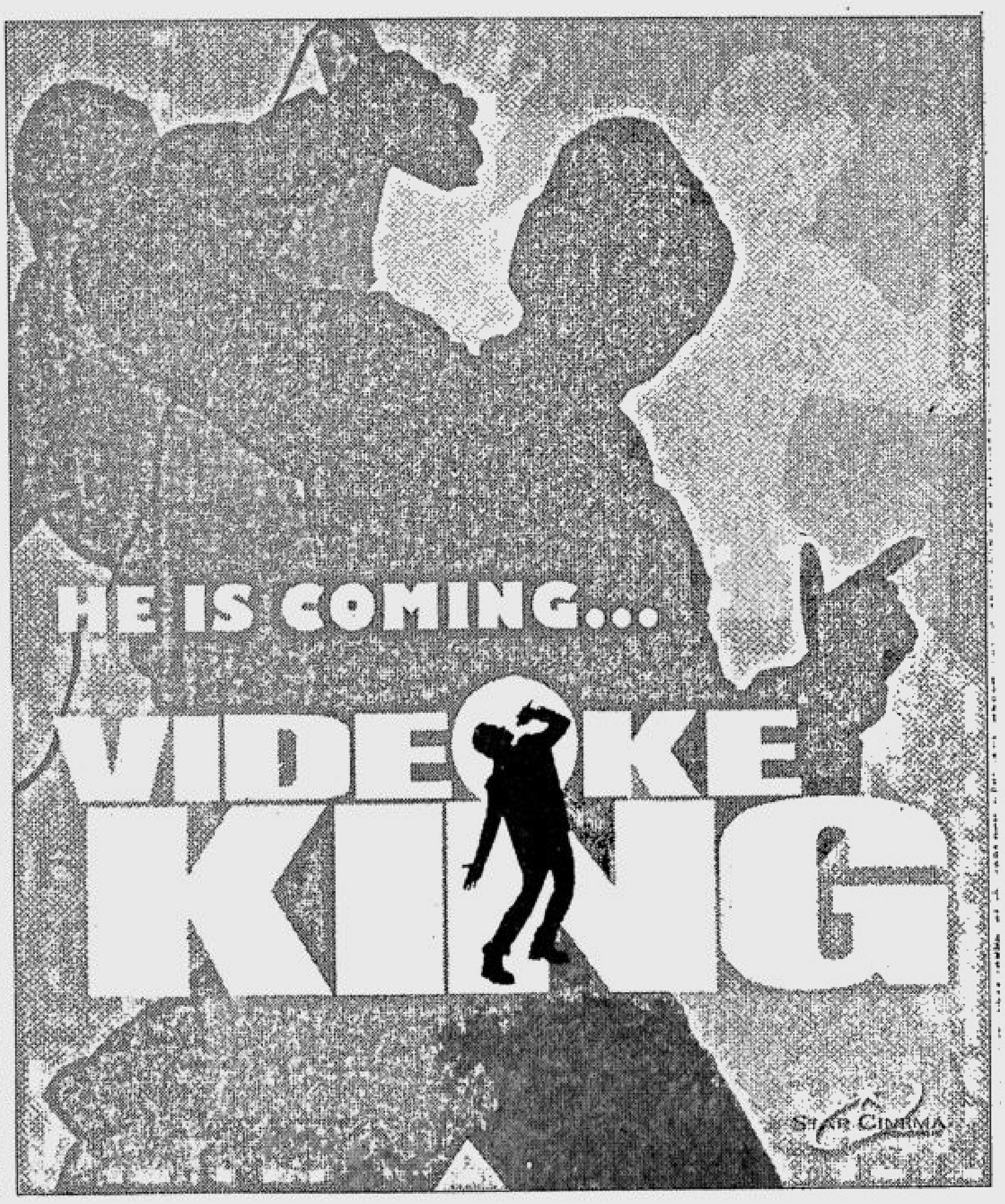
www.ayalaland.com.ph


HE IS COMING...
VIDEOKE KING
STAR CINEMA

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Alternative film-viewing options

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

A FRIEND and colleague of ours has this instructive story to tell: he spoke to an audience of students recently and polled them on their moviegoing habits. Of the 100 students present, only 10 had seen a film in the past seven days, and not many more had gone to the movies for the last 30 days.

This informal survey's results fly in the face of statistics that purport to show that Filipinos love movies. What gives? Analyzing his own findings, our friend concluded that Filipinos continue to be film fans—*but* some of them no longer go to moviehouses to watch them.

Instead, they buy or rent video copies of films, watch movies on the film channels on television, or view them on DVD. They have resorted to these alternative film-viewing options for a number of reasons:

First, it's much cheaper to rent or even buy films on video cassette or DVD, which can be viewed by the entire family, rather than having to pay for individual theater tickets.

Additional savings: you don't have to pay for transportation to and from the moviehouse, and for the snacks that are part of the moviegoing experience in these parts.

Second, you are spared the pollution, traffic, aggravatino and time lost in going out to see a movie.

Third, if you purchase your film copy, you end up owning it and adding it to your growing video or DVD library. When you go to a moviehouse, all you pay for, and get, is one screening of the movie, not the film copy itself.

This development is good news for video cassette and DVD merchandisers, and "neutral" news for film producers, whose movies are still patronized by viewers, albeit in different forms and venues.

But it could be bad news for theater owners, who may be faced with declining ticket sales in film seasons to come. If concern is merited in this regard, they should come up with new strategies to entice people, especially the youth, back to the theaters.

Acting workshops for children

CONNIE Chua's Actors 26 Talent Center (26 Mabait st., Teachers' Village, Diliman, QC) is offering acting workshops for children from April 15 to May 4. Call 433-6044.

The integrated children's theater and basic film acting workshop for Group 1 is for kids from 8 to 10 years old, while Group 2 is for ages 10 ½ to 12 years old.

Now on its sixth year, Actors 26 has developed performers who are now active on TV, like **Kay Kay** (Little Miss Philippines of Channel 7), **Ricardo Flores** (regular ABS-CBN talent), **Marck Wilson** ("Kool Ka Lang"), and **Ryan Homicillo** ("Ang TV Kids").

Connie Chua is one of our best actresses. She was nominated as best supporting actress for her performances in the movies "Bayani" and "Saranggola." She was talent coordinator for three years of ABS-CBN children's programs like "Hiraya Manawari," "Sine Skewela," "Mathtinik" and "Epol Apple."

Feedback

FROM **Ely R. Maravilla** of Cebu City: "Where can I find VHS copies of old Filipino films at reasonable prices? I am particularly interested in award winners, both in local and international film festivals.

NUT'S note: The next time you come to Manila, try the video shops at Virra Mall. In addition, some award-winning local movies are shown on film channels on TV, but you'd have to videotape them (For personal viewing only, not to be sold to others).

The UP Film Center, the CCP and the NCCA are other sources of old films, or at least of more information on where you can locate the movies you're looking for.

'15 Minutes' on video

"15 MINUTES," starring **Robert De Niro** and **Edward Burns**, is now available on VHS and VCD formats. The two stars team up to hunt down two ex-cons from the Czech Republic who arrive in New York, discover that American criminals are practically celebrities, and make a "snuff" film of grisly and epic proportions.

They hope to sell their twisted, homicidal docu-drama to the media and become superstars of crime in their own right—only, De Niro and Burns won't let them.

"15 Minutes" is directed by **John Herzfeld**. Call 245-5011.

'I.R. Strikesk Back'

TRUE to the tradition of April Fools' Day, things are set to get extra crazy on the Cartoon Network on April 1 as the cartoon star, I.R. Baboon, takes over primetime.

I.R. Baboon is a character from the Cartoon Network's "I Am Weasel." Regardless of how hard he tries, he can never beat I. M. Weasel.

Through it all, however, I.R. Baboon still possesses the endearing quality inherent in every lovable loser. Check out the mayhem he causes on April 1 at 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Philippine time, on the Cartoon Network.

'Star Storm' rafffle on GMA

WANT to have dinner with your favorite celebrity?

Want to shop till you drop?

Want to know how it feels to be a star?

You need not look far.

Lux Super Rich, with GMA 7, fulfills all your dreams and guarantees a star experience of a lifetime, replete with big stars and fabulous prizes.

All Filipino females from 16 to 35 years of age are qualified to join the "Star Storm" raffle.

Just submit six whole empty sachets or one bottle cap of any variant of Lux Super Rich Shampoo with your name, age, address, phone number and signature on a sheet of paper inside an envelope labeled "Lux Super Rich Star Storm Raffle."

The "Star Storm" raffle will have three draws with 14 winners each. The two remaining draw dates are April 14 and May 5.

At stake is P10,00 in cash, plus P10,000 worth of fashion makeover and a P10,000 shopping spree at Robinson's Department Store, air ticket on Cebu Pacific, hotel accommodations for two at Manila Midtown Hotel.

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A
MOVIE
BREAK
HAVE
A
Nestlé
KitKat

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NDD: P3.00/min.
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Sunday BIZ

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo** ● *Business Features Editor* **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

Altar boy rise to creative haven

GARCIA as Hotdog

BORN as the middle child in a big family of modest means, Dennis D. Garcia knew early in life that he had to struggle and work hard to shine in an extremely competitive family.

His father was a lawyer while his mother was a homemaker. He had four sisters and two brothers.

He also had to strive to enjoy what young kids enjoyed during the '60s —a movie for 25 centavos, a foot-long hotdog at the Brown Derby for P1.50, ChocNut chocolate at 5 centavos, etc.

At 11, Dennis became an altar boy at Paco Catholic Church, waking up at 4:30 each morning to walk half a kilometer to church and make the 5:30 a.m. Mass. The rewards were mostly "spiritual"—no fees were ever provided for his service.

But on Sundays when he assisted in baptisms, he would sometimes get lucky and get a P5.00 'tip' from the officiating Belgian priest.

A consistent honor student during his elementary years at Sta. Isabel College and Paco Catholic School, Dennis took the high school entrance exams to the UP Preparatory School in Padre Faura, and passed. He went on to finish college in the state university.

At 15, he and brother Rene joined a rock band called Red Fox and this was when he started to earn serious money at P50 per gig. The band became the toast of students

ALTAR/ B4

From panty hose salesman to kingpin of health shops

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

HE had a good product, good places to sell it, and good sales but Healthy Options managing director Romeo Sia can still remember with a laugh his early days as a panty hose salesman and Lyna distributor in Manila.

Healthy Options is the country's first and largest chain of health shops.

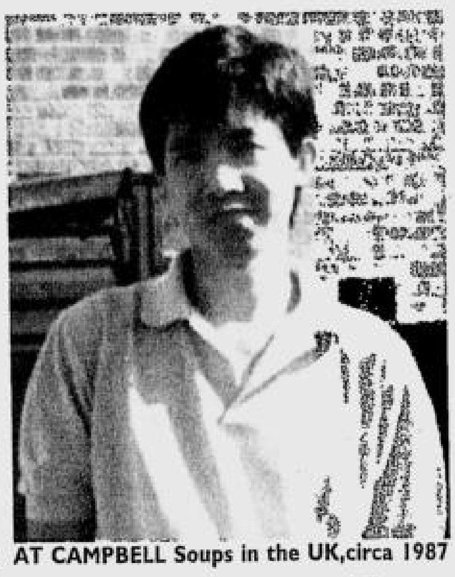
After finishing marketing from the University of the Philippines, he joined the firm of his uncle's business partner, Vernal Commercial, the importer and distributor of Lyna, a cream that was supposed to result in fairer and clearer skin.

First Job

The facial cream was quite popular in the late '70s and '80s.

He serviced the Chinese accounts, which included outlets in Divisoria, Binondo and department stores like Isetann and Fairmart.

Since he was regularly doing the rounds of the stores, he decided to diversify his product line, so he began selling panty hose.



AT CAMPBELL Soups in the UK,circa 1987

Unlike today, panty hose was a daily must-wear for many working women.

It was when he went into this business that he experienced his most embarrassing moment—he was in an elevator when his bag accidentally opened and out poured his panty hose that came in all kinds of colors.

He was earning P600 a month at Vernal and was entitled to yearly commissions.

But he recalls that at the end of the year he only got P3,000 in commissions even if he was holding the big Chinese accounts, while others received as much as P10,000.

Disappointed, he quit.

He landed a job in the Hong Kong Shanghai Banking Corp. in 1980 and he was paid P1,600 a month.

"That was the first time I went to Ayala. I was a *batang* Quiapo and when I saw Ayala, I felt like I was in New York," recalls Sia.

That was his first foray into finance where he got stuck for the next 10 years.

But banking was not Sia's destiny.

In 1982, he married Janet Oldfield, a British lass who was his pen pal for two years. They finally met in person in Australia and promptly fell in love.

Sia says he had to bring all their letters and show these to the consul to prove that he was

FROM/ B4

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Lack of new facilities hounds citrus growers

By Ben Moses Ebreo
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SOLANO, Nueva Vizcaya—In the early 1980s, Alfonso Namuhje Jr., a pioneer producer of citrus and orange fruits in Nueva Vizcaya, convinced his fellow Ifugao farmers to produce citrus and oranges to improve their income in the upland town of Kasibu, some 50 km from here.

His efforts paid off as more and more citrus and orange farmers ventured into the trade, as the fruit proved to be a high-value commercial crop.

The number of original farmers rose from 100 to more than 200, producing varieties of citrus and orange fruits in the 421-hectare plantation in Malabing Valley in Kasibu. The valley consists of Barangays Tadjie, Malabing, Binugawan, Wangal, Papaya and Capissaan.

From these lands, Ifugao farmers cultivate citrus and orange varieties such as red Chandler; pink Amoy Chinese of the pomelo (*Citrus gigantis*) family; Valencia; and the seedless Hamlin orange also known as Perante orange.

Also cultivated in Kasibu are the Washington navel and Gillete navel varieties (*Citrus cinensis*) which are ideal for fresh orange juice; the seedless Satsuma (Japanese orange); Poncan (Chinese Mandarin); and the Clementine type of the Mandarin (*Citrus reticulata*) family.

From July to January every year, citrus varieties, known as "Vizcaya Oranges," are harvested and brought to various outlets in the country.

Most producers are using the traditional methods of farming coupled with the valley's natural temperature—hot during the day and cold during the night—which makes the land fertile and appropriate for citrus production.

Several farmers have also branched out into farming of other fruit varieties such as *rambutan*, lychees, longgan and lanzones.

Cooperative

Last year, the Malabing Valley Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative Inc. (MVFMPCI) produced 220 tons of oranges.

The MVFMPCI pegged an average selling price of citrus and orange varieties at P33 per kilogram or P1,000 per crate. Farmers said they suffered minimal losses.

RHEAS
OLRINADOR FRUIT STAND
TIOUI PAR

"VIZCAYA ORANGES" are harvested from July to January BEN MOSES EBREO

"But recently, we saw our trees with many fruits. Maybe, we can triple our production this year," said Fernando Sison, 31, MVFMPCI manager.

Last year, the MVFMPCI availed itself of a P6.5-million loan from the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) to help its members finance their own production.

As the harvest season nears and with the increasing number of farmers who have invested on the trade, an uncontrolled production volume is expected, Sison said.

"This is one of our major problems. We need post-harvest facilities so much so with the needed promotional strategy of our products to expand our outlets," he said.

In 1998, an overproduction of fruits caused huge losses to farmers which was attributed to the lack of post-harvest facilities to preserve or process their products has brought financial losses to farmers due to fruit spoilage, shrinkage and other natural causes.

To cushion the impact of overproduction, MVFMPCI has asked financial assistance from the cold chain or fruit storage program of the Bureau of Post-Harvest and Research Extension (BPHRE) of the Department of Agriculture.

"It is good if we can get this from the gov-

LACK/ B3

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Lack of . . .

From page B2

ernment. President Macapagal-Arroyo promised in her State of the Nation Address (Sona) to help farmers in terms of post-harvest facilities," he said.

The MVFMPCI officials are also eyeing the proposed Nueva Vizcaya Agricultural Trading Center (NVAT) of the provincial government to help farmers in storing their products. The center will be used to market fruits and vegetable products in the province.

He said the post-harvest facilities are needed to process the fruits according to quality standards.

"The ideal is 40 percent of the produced fruits must be rejected and this should be processed for other products. We hope that citrus producers would also be given consideration under the project," he added.

GATT

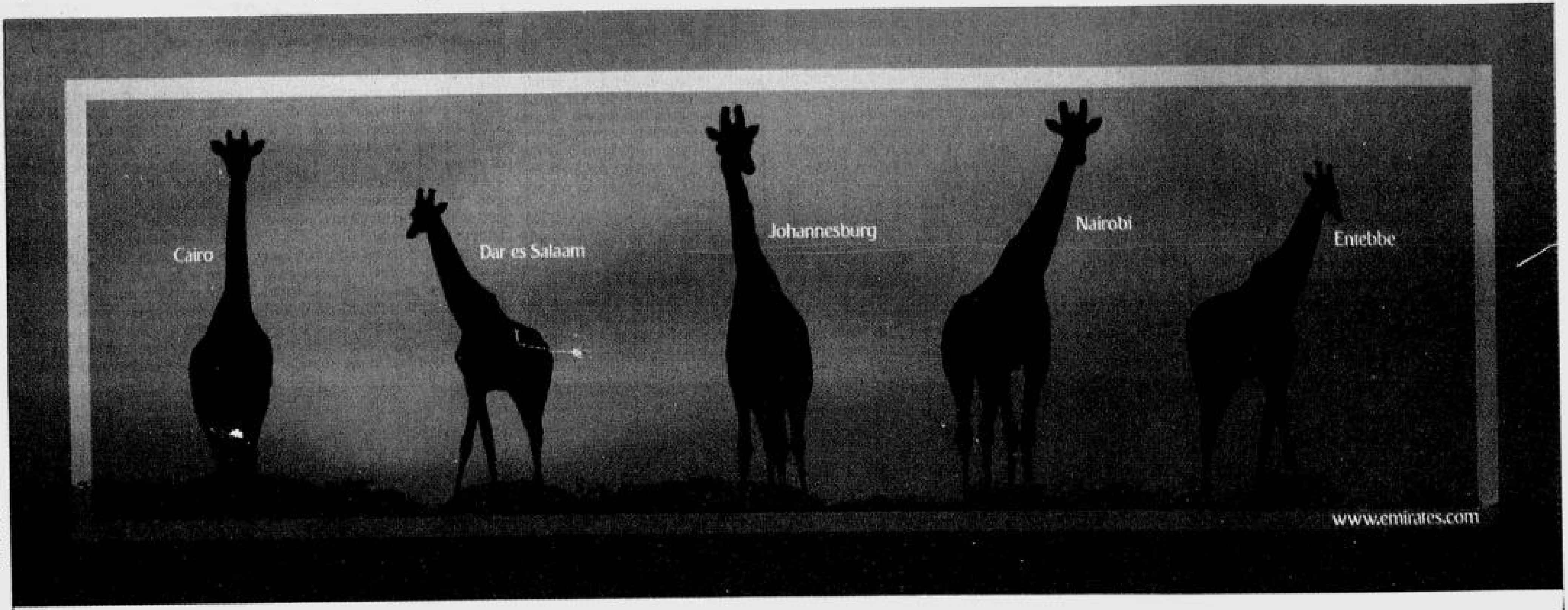
The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which allowed the importation of fruits from other countries, has not helped citrus and orange farmers in Nueva Vizcaya, according to Sison.

"We cannot lower the prices of our products to compete with imported fruits because our production cost is high," he said.

With the financial assistance, most farmers have used fertilizers in their farms to boost their production, he said.

Sison said there was a need to strengthen government's effort in providing extensive technical research and financial assistance to help farmers minimize their production expenses.

"*Dehado kasi tayo*. But with that, maybe we can lower our prices and compete with imported products," he said.



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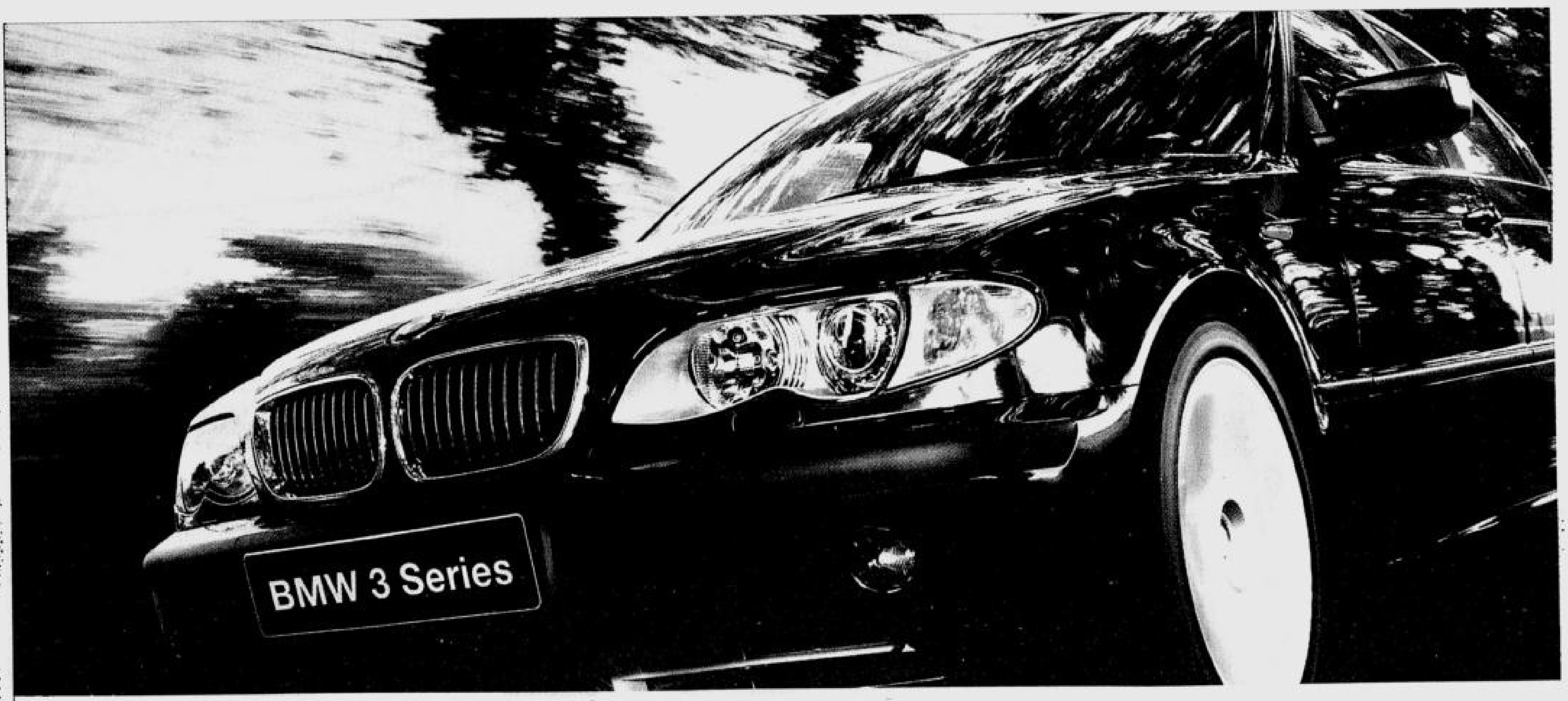

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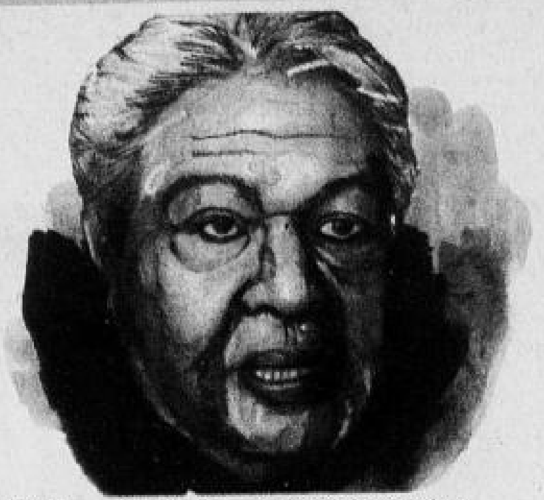
IN YOUR FACE

BY L.P. LEVISTE



FORMER lawmaker Edcel Lagman takes on new role as spokesperson of the Philippine Cement Manufacturer Corp., the umbrella organization of cement makers in the country. Philcemcor is in the limelight these days because of rising cement prices and its lobby to impose a permanent tariff on cement imports.

From panty...

From page B1

meeting his pen pal. Before that, he had already been denied a US visa.

Move to Britain

Initially, they lived in Quiapo with Sia's family but in 1984, when the economy took a turn for the worse after the assassination of Ninoy Aquino, Sia and his wife decided to go to Britain.

Armed with a good referral from Hong Kong Bank, he landed a job at Campbell Soup.

His task was to set up systems and analyze where to cut costs and where to increase revenues.

Romy and Janet lived a good life in England—they both had jobs, they had a bungalow, two cars and a baby.

But Romy says he always longed to go back to the Philippines.

"I had this strong desire to have my own business," he said.

And he was getting very homesick. It was not really his family that he missed but the Black Nazarene fiesta in Quiapo.

After eight years of working abroad, he finally decided to take the big leap of faith and think seriously about starting a business. His old high school classmate Christian Tan, encouraged him to do just that.

Sia and his family went back to Manila in September 1992, when the President was Fidel V. Ramos and brownouts that lasted for 10 hours were a daily occurrence.

They lived in Quiapo and he dabbled in wholesale for a while. But his dreams of going on his own remained.

However this had to be set aside, as he had to look for a job to support his family.

Good idea

Sia joined ABS-CBN as a finance person, then moved to the First Philippine Holdings Corp., a Lopez-owned holding company engaged in infrastructure.

SIA went into marketing, finance and now, retail.

But an incident involving his son gave him the opening and the long-awaited motivation to finally pursue his entrepreneurial dreams.

His son developed an allergy and the doctor recommended a diet with no artificial ingredients to cure the allergy.

It proved to be very difficult and Romy and Janet realized that there was practically no local source of all-natural food and health care products.

That's when the idea of Healthy Options came about.

The firm's mission is to offer superior and healthy foods that will create a healthier world. Healthy Options Inc. is a joint venture with his friend Christian Tan.

It now has over eight branches and more will be opened this year.

Sia says Healthy Options grew the way it did because he got all the good practices of the big companies he worked for and applied these to his firm.

After trying out several jobs in different areas, the former pantyhose sales man has finally found work he truly loves—making people health-conscious.

Altar boy...

From page B1

from La Salle and the International School. And for a few years, the band was the 'official' band of the Marcos kids.

While performing with the band, Dennis landed his first real job—as a copywriter for Commerce Advertising, a small Binondo ad agency, earning P250 a month.

GARCIA in the '90s

Three months later, he applied and secured a copywriting job with the Philippine Advertising Counselors (PAC) at the princely monthly salary of P350. Teamed with now-famous artist Romulo Olazo, Dennis created the groundbreaking San Miguel Beer "Isa Pa Nga" advertising campaign at 18.

He joined J. Walter Thompson as a creative group head in 1973. Three months later, Dennis was torn between his love for music and an advertising career. He chose the former when Red Fox was chosen from several leading local bands and contracted by the biggest entertainment group in Honolulu to perform in Waikiki for one year.

Each member took home a net paycheck of $1,500 a month. (Exchange rate then was about P6.75:$1)

Dennis came back to Manila in 1974 and formed the Hotdog band with brother Rene. The band made history with its unique 'Manila Sound' and a string of hits (Manila, Pers Lab, Ms. Universe, Annie Batungbakal, Bongga Ka 'Day, O Lumapit Ka, Langit Na Naman, Behhh Buti Nga, etc.) which are unparalleled until today.

In 1980, Dennis resumed his advertising career as VP/executive creative director of Advertising & Marketing Associates.

He was pirated by a smaller agency called SSCB: Lintas Manila in 1982 which he helped grow from nowhere to No. 7 by 1988, at which time he was—in turn—pirated by Lintas Kuala Lumpur.

Barely one year on the job, he was once again pirated—this time by FCB Malaysia to work on blue chip accounts like Colgate-Palmolive and Proton, Malaysia's national car with Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad as principal client.

In 1993, he was wooed by McCann Erickson to come home and lead the team tasked to defend the San Miguel Beer account from aggressive competitor Basic FCB. McCann was able to stave off the threat.

In 1996, he co-founded Bozell Advertising with George Balagtas, which became FCB Manila in 1999. In less than six years, the agency became the fastest-growing in the country with groundbreaking advertising campaigns for Extelcom, Talk 'N Text, Squibb Vitamin E, and Equitable Cards.

Throughout the years, Dennis has taken time out to hone his skills in the arts. He took numerous sabbaticals to learn audio production (Audio Institute of America), screenwriting (UCLA), film production (Rockport Film School) and web design (Asia Online).

His knowledge of these diverse disciplines will come in handy when he joins the Viva Entertainment Group in April as its chief creative officer.

FLASHBACK

DENNIS D. Garcia of the Hotdog band fame joined the workforce in the '60s when a movie cost 25 centavos, a foot-long hotdog at the Brown Derby, a famous restaurant then, for P1.50, and ChocNut, the peanut-flavored chocolate sold for chocolate at 5 centavos.

Minimum wage in the US then was about $1.25 to $1.60 an hour.

In 1960, the exchange rate was P2.:$1. The peso depreciated beginning 1962 to P3.79; then P3.91 the following year. By 1970, the value of the peso versus the dollar dropped to P5.90.

The '70s was a great time for original Pilipino music which continued until the early '80s.

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Hard work pays dividends for credit union

By Maurice Malanes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The 15 teachers of a Catholic school here, some of whom have already died, must have not dreamed that the credit union they established with only P250 in 1958 would grow into a 12,000-member credit union, which earned almost P32 million in net surplus last year.

Members of the credit union on March 10 and 13 cheerfully queued up to get their dividends. The dividends were actually last year's total net surplus divided among the members according to how much each member invested as fixed capital and how much he or she loaned last year.

The credit union started out in 1958 from the P250 pooled by 15 teachers from the Saint Louis College (now Saint Louis University).

The credit union, now known as the Baguio-Benguet Community Credit Cooperative (BBCCC), eventually expanded to include members from other residents of Baguio and nearby Benguet.

The cooperative has come a long way, surviving and parrying the blows of the economic crises in recent years, which forced even some banks and companies to shut down.

"There's no substitute for an educated, enlightened and vigilant membership," said Amado Jesus Cendaña, BBCCC general manager, when asked about the cooperative's formula for success.

He cited what the credit union called PMES or pre-membership education seminar, which, he said, was a must for all applicant-members.

A day-long seminar, the PMES tackles subjects that instill to would-be members the values of thrift, saving for the rainy day and cooperation as ways of empowering both the lower- and middle-income groups through loans and savings.

PMES educators also stress the value of *"bayanihan"* or community spirit, which is inherent in the country's rural setting, but often gets lost in the rat race of the Big City.

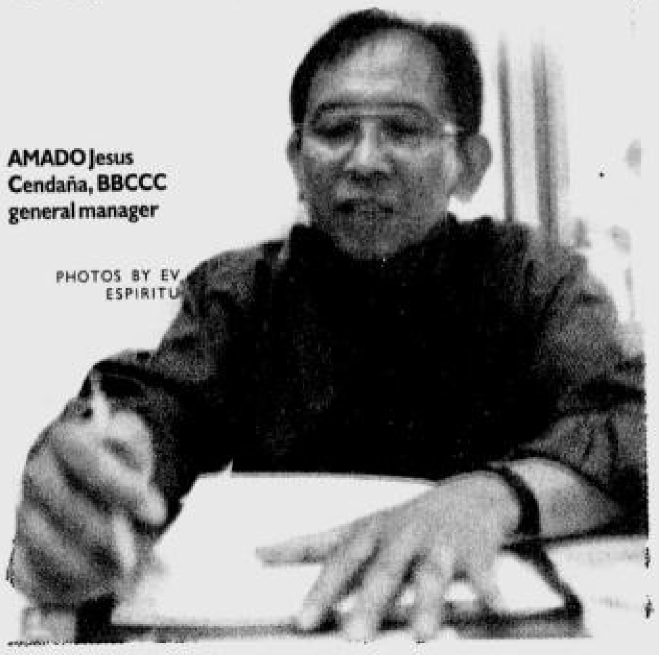
All BBCCC members, who include both the "mighty and lowly," said Cendaña, have undergone the PMES.

Members include a cross-section of sectors in this city and in nearby Benguet such as Court of Appeals Justice Romeo Brawner, other government and private professionals, taxi and jeepney drivers, sidewalk vendors and farmers.

The BBCCC also invests on the "continuing education" of its management staff.

"We highly regard education as an investment rather than an expense," Cendaña said. "There's always something new to learn in every seminar sponsored by other cooperatives or cooperative federations."

This is why, he said, the BBCCC always grabs the opportunity to send management staff members to seminars and workshops on subjects such as credit management, bookkeeping and computerization.



AMADO Jesus Cendaña, BBCCC general manager

PHOTOS BY EV ESPIRITU

Checks and balances

The city's, if not the country's, oldest credit union also has another secret—a well-established check-and-balance system.

"We have a vigilant audit committee so we never release a loan unless this committee has carefully scrutinized it," Cendaña said.

Before it grants a loan, the credit committee sees to it that a member has the "capacity to pay" based on the member's fixed or average income.

For further control, loan applications exceeding P50,000 are also referred to the board of directors after passing through the credit committee.

It takes an average of three days before a loan is approved. But in a few minutes, members can get loans within their fixed deposit, a service one cannot get from a private bank.

A member with a fixed deposit of P5,000, for example, can immediately get a P5,000 loan after the treasurer and general manager, who are always around, approve the loan.

Tapping kids, OCWs

The board and other officers of the cooperative believe that people must learn to save early in life.

To help promote the cooperative's "financial strength and stability," the BBCCC last year encouraged members to increase their savings with the cooperative.

A new scheme the cooperative introduced last year was what Cendaña called "kiddie savings."

"My dream is seeing kids queuing up before the cashier to deposit some savings because the value of self-discipline and thrift must be learned early in life," he said.

Under the "Kiddie and Youth Savings Account," parent-members are encouraged to open accounts for their children—from day-old babies to teenagers in college—who become associate members after they pay at least P100 in shares and the membership fee. Their savings earn interest.

Cendaña believed so much in the cooperative system that "I don't even have savings in the bank." His savings are all with the BBCCC.

The BBCCC since last year has also begun recruiting overseas workers. It held one pre-membership seminar in Hong Kong last September and 1,421 readily attended, 1,395 of whom finally qualified.

With the overseas recruitment, the membership rose to 12,584 last year.

But even with the cooperative's steady growth, BBCCC officials dream of eventually recruiting most of the city's 290,000 population and the more than 350,000 population of Benguet.

"The question is not why are the members members, but why the rest of the population are not," said lawyer Renato Fernandez, BBCCC board chair.

For now, the BBCCC wants to build a multistory building on a more than 500-square-meter, idle lot beside its current office to accommodate more members once the cooperative doubles, or even triples, its current 100 applicants monthly recruitment rate.

Biggest challenge

The cooperative is not free from problems, one of which is the delinquent loan payment of some members.

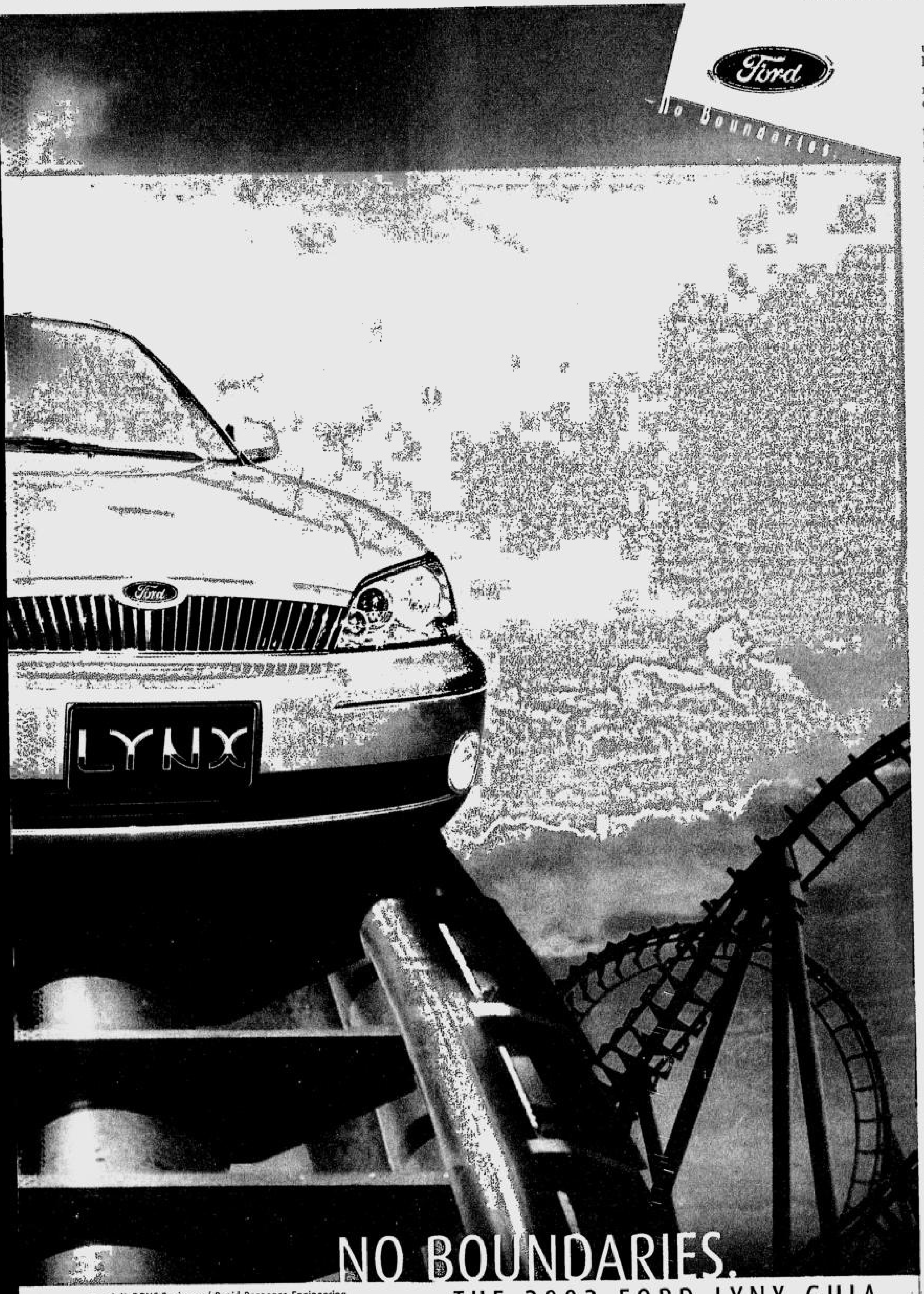
But both Cendaña and Fernandez said the more or less P1 million in delinquent payments last year was "manageable" and not enough to bring down the cooperative.

The co-op will thus deputize a collector to follow-up delinquent accounts. It also plans to file more foreclosure proceedings, if only to get back the loans, Fernandez said.

But most members believe so much in the cooperative that they themselves come to the co-op office to pay their installment payments, he said.

The cooperative has nine loan services, which members have availed of to send their children to school, start or expand a business, build or expand a house, pay hospital bills and memorial services, and other emergency needs of members.

ANOTHER busy day at BBCCC office.



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TRAVEL

Editor Rosario A. Garcellano

MIGRATORY wonders on the horizon

The silence of Olango

Text and photos
by Angelina G. Goloy

HOMER Gonzalez, marine biologist (and bird guardian)

IN ORDER to see birds it is necessary to become a part of the silence.

This quote from an Irishman named Robert Lynd probably best describes—or, more precisely, prescribes—the proper appreciation of the elusive creatures.

A journalist by profession, Lynd seemed to suggest that in watching for Nature's myriad rites and rituals, as in recording and reporting daily occurrences, it is to the patient observer that the story unfolds.

Homer Gonzalez puts it less gently, less poignantly: *Don't be noisy, or you'll drive the birds away.* But then he's no wordsmith.

The man is a marine biologist, and he knows only too well the harm humans can do (and have, in fact, done) to the environment. As the naturalist interpreter guiding tourists through Cebu's famed Olango island bird sanctuary, he makes sure visitors do not disrupt the natural goings-on.

Over and over Homer repeats the reminder to tone down the chatter, at times with so much passion he sounds almost hostile. But then Olango hosts no ordinary flock of birds. Visitors won't be entertained by a display of brightly colored feathers or high-pitched warbling. And feeding the birds is definitely a no-no.

Olango, a part of Lapu-Lapu City, is a vital stopover for birds migrating via the East Asia-Australia flyway. This route is used by 77 species of shorebirds and wading birds, 62 percent of which depend on the island for their survival.

In the winter migratory birds leave their breeding grounds in the north and fly southward to Australia or as far as the South Pole to escape the cold weather and search for food. They return to their nests in the summer.

They "refuel" on Olango twice a year, from August to November during the southward migration, and from February to May during the northward migration.

"These birds are international visitors here," Homer says, propping on two plastic chairs an improvised chart to illustrate the birds' journey. "Olango is important to these birds because of the diversity of the habitats here—like different restaurants offering different cuisine." (Migratory birds feed on marine invertebrates and plants found along the shores.)

Prelude

The orientation is a necessary prelude to the Olango Birds and Seascape Tour, which is run by the Suba, Olango Ecotourism Cooperative, with technical assistance from Eco-Ventures, a non-government organization. The tour was developed in 1998 as a livelihood project by the Coastal Resource Management Project (CRMP), in consultation with the residents of Suba, the fishing village chosen as host community for the tour.

According to Monina Flores, CRMP enterprise development specialist, Suba is strategically located—at the backdoor of the protected wetlands. Villagers, therefore, are asked to cooperate in securing the sanctuary from the illegal harvest of marine resources, she explains in a paper on ecotourism.

The tour is not only a source of income, part of which goes to the upkeep of the bird sanctuary; it is also an effective tool for raising the villagers' environmental awareness.

Previously, Monina says, many families were forced to engage in cyanide fishing to supply the tropical aquarium fish trade. This also drove the birds away, and when birds can't break their journey to rest and feed, they die before reaching their destination.

Such is the significance of Olango that the government has placed its nearly 1,000 hectares of wetlands under the environmental protection program.

The island is located about 10 kilometers off the coast of Mactan. There one can take a motorized ferry to Sta. Rosa town (25-30 minutes) and then a tricycle or a *banca* to Suba.

On this particular morning, the tour participants are Manila visitors from Smart Communications Inc., which has opened a public calling office there, and the Philippine Business for Social Progress, which has inaugurated a solar power system funded by a donation from Smart.

"How long do the birds stay here?" someone in the tour group asks.

"Anywhere from one second to three years," Homer says.

> 'It's perfectly safe out here. At night this is like a fantasy land, with only fireflies lighting your way. The only danger here comes from you, humans'

"How long will it take them to reach the North Pole?" another one asks, noting that the birds are migrating northward this time of year.

"Two to three days of 24-hour non-stop flying," Homer says.

Great distances

Scientists have tracked down many birds covering even greater distances, like the North American blackpoll warbler, which flies 4,023 kilometers, or nearly 90 hours, non-stop.

The majority of migratory birds fly at altitudes of 3,000 to 6,000 feet, although some have been detected by radar at 20,000 feet or higher.

Over time science has established that by day birds follow landmarks, like coastlines and mountain ranges. But the question of how they are able to make their way unaided across the vast Pacific Ocean remains largely unanswered.

Experts have suggested that birds are equipped with some sort of internal compass or are able to respond to the earth's magnetic field, navigating by taking magnetic bearings, especially at night or when the sky is overcast.

Pondering on these phenomena whets one's appetite for the actual tour, which requires getting one's feet wet—literally. For at least half an hour one wades through mangrove areas until one reaches a safe distance from the birds' feeding grounds.

Rubber slippers or latex booties are recommended, along with shorts or pants with the legs rolled up, as the water can reach up to mid-calf. The more adventurous go barefoot, as though to soak in the experience, sharp shells, corals, and all.

But if one is careful, the feel of the soft cool sand on one's soles is pure pleasure!

Fantasy land

"It's perfectly safe out here," Homer says as the group cuts through a thick mangrove area. "At night this is like a fantasy land, with only fireflies lighting your way."

The only danger here "comes from you yourselves, from (humans)," he warns, shifting to a tone that would make anyone think twice about even shooing a fly.

Because Olango is a protected area, media persons doing the tour are required to get a permit from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, which also assigns an escort to make sure the photographing and videotaping are done as unobtrusively as possible. Photos and video footage also need to be cleared before publication and airing.

"Hurry up while it's still low tide," Homer says, prompting one to look up from a water-inspired reverie.

Several meters away on a wide dry area, a tricycle offers an alternative to those who may want drop out of the flanks and commune with nature more comfortably—for a fee, of course. No one takes the offer.

After 40 minutes of wading Homer motions the group to stop as he mounts a telescope on a tripod. This is where the group can watch the birds. From where one stands, the birds are mere whitish specks scattered across the horizon. Seen through the peering instrument, however, they seem close enough to touch, so much so that the first sight of them is almost startling.

The birds have long thin legs, one usually bent, and long beaks. Commonly spotted on Olango are the Chinese egret, an endangered species known locally as *tagak*, and sandpipers, terns and plovers.

Much of Homer's annotation is carried off by the wind as one slowly drifts away to get a closer shot of the birds.

"Ideally, humans should be 50 meters away," he says, adding that birds are sensitive to noise and any changes in the environment.

This detail brings to mind another bird-watching tour, in Victoria, Australia, where one experienced an almost unbelievable moment of silence as a huge crowd watched fairy penguins coming ashore at night after a day of fishing to tend to their burrows.

One would have given anything to record that ritual, but, alas, taking pictures was strictly prohibited because the flash of cameras and whirring of video recorders are known to distress the penguins.

But this time on Olango, one resolves to take home a memento of the experience, or, lacking any sophisticated equipment, at least its setting.

Humbling experience

Granted, the Olango bird tour is not quite as fascinating as the action-packed "penguin parade" in Victoria. But it offers a unique opportunity to be in communion with creatures of incredible navigational skills, who journey to and from the farthest points of the earth in fulfillment of a phenomenal cycle of survival only God, in His infinite wisdom, could have designed.

Even the most seasoned travelers would be humbled.

No wonder the Olango Birds and Seascape Tour is one of the 10 "Highly Commended Honorees" of the Conservation International's 2000 Excellence in Ecotourism Awards.

This being the UN-declared International Year of Ecotourism, the Olango experience rekindles hopes that this country, only recently rated as having the worst environment in Southeast Asia, would someday learn to be one with the natural order of the universe, "to become a part of the silence."

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Tie-up

ONE of Spain's largest hotel chains with the most extensive network in retail tourism agencies in Europe and the Americas has formalized a marketing-and-management tie-up with Asturias Hotel in Puerto Princesa City.

Now to be known as Barcelo Asturias Hotel, the 60-room property is located in a serene environment away from the bustling streets.

Barcelo Hotels and Resorts established its presence in the Philippines early last year with a similar management tie-up with the jewel of the South, the Barcelo Pearl Farm Island Resort," and recently with Iloilo's pride, the Barcelo Sarabia Manor Hotel and Convention Center.

It manages 118 hotels in 19 countries worldwide.

Award

AN INTERACTIVE marketing CD campaign launched in North America last year by the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) won top honors in the Adrian Awards competition at the recent Travel Industry Awards Dinner in New York organized by the Hospitality Sales and Marketing Association International (HSMAI).

STB's Video CDrama won the Gold Award in the Country Convention/Tourist Bureau CD-ROM category.

The competition drew more than 1,500 entries from 45 countries and destinations around the world, and is regarded as the most prestigious international travel marketing competition of its kind.

STB launched its CDrama in July 2001 with the goal of introducing Singapore to North American consumers through an interactive experience. The special four-color, four-fold mailer features a mini disc that can easily be viewed by potential travelers using a personal computer or a DVD player.

The presentation includes a Singapore video, song and picture show along the theme of the "Live It Up! in Singapore" marketing campaign; a section with scrolling facts and web-links to attractions, festivals and events in Singapore; an interactive travel article; an installable screensaver; and information about special travel offers to Singapore and beyond

Also included is a tear-off mail or fax-back postcard to request free brochures and literature on specific destinations. Options include the Official Guide to Singapore, a city map, New Asia Tours and Calendar of Festivals and Events.

FMD-free Masbate cashes in on cattle demand

By Roly Embile
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

RODEO Festival

PHOTOS BY ROLY EMBILE

MASBATE CITY—The mad cow and foot-and-mouth (FMD) diseases scare, which had virtually wrecked the cattle industry in Europe and in many parts of the country, has kept the cattle-producing province of Masbate in robust economic health.

Dr. Hernando Dorongon, assistant provincial veterinarian, said an increasing demand for Masbate's disease-free cattle started in the middle of 2000.

Dorongon said cattle traders from Pangasinan, Batangas, Bacolod and Metro Manila were quickly snapping up their stock, advertising it as coming from Masbate.

Since 2000, shipments of cattle to these areas have averaged 307 heads per month, he said.

But since last year, this number has steadily climbed by at least 10 percent per month.

He said Masbate-raised cattle have also been preferred over imported stock from New Zealand and Australia for breeding purposes.

Since last year, cattle prices of P6,000-P8,000 per head have risen to an average of P9,000 per head. Each head averages 150 kilos, dressed weight.

The domestic price of beef has since risen from P100 per kilo to P110 per kilo.

Even local consumption of beef in Masbate rose as eateries serving *bulalo* and *tapang baka* have reported brisk business.

Agaton Margallo, who runs a *bulaluhan*—Bulalohan sa Boulevard, told the INQUIRER that during ordinary season his daily sale of the soup delicacy, served steaming-hot in half-kilo servings, runs to over 100 kilos a day.

"But in the peak season leading to and during the Rodeo Masbateño (in March 18 to 22) I can easily double that," he said.

AGATON Margallo, owner of "Bulalohan sa Boulevard" in Masbate.

Dwindling stock

The cattle population reported to the Office of the Provincial Veterinarian by some 100 ranchers and backyard producers has been declining since the 1980s.

Dorongon said that cattle population in the 1980s was over 100,000. This number went down to about 70,000 in the '90s. This year, the cattle population stands at more or less 56,000.

Dorongon said there are some other factors influencing this trend. One is the high interest rate of financing for the livestock industry. The others are the expiration of the tax moratorium on cattle investment, which has encouraged private financing for agriculture, and cattle rustling, which mainly affects the small backyard cattle raisers.

Faced with such threat as the dwindling supply of its No. 1 commodity, the provincial government, according to Dorongon, has implemented some measures under its livestock development program.

The "bakahan sa barangay" is a breeder-based livestock dispersal program where the local government provides the ranchers and the backyard raisers financial support by providing loans for breeding purposes.

The multi-livestock development program organizes small ranchers and backyard raisers into cooperatives for them to avail themselves of support for cattle breeding from government and non-government sources.

Raisers with at least 10 heads of cattle are considered small ranchers while backyard raisers are those with less than 10 heads.

The pasture improvement program is the introduction and cultivation of improved cattle feeds like forage grasses and legumes and the effective control of common livestock diseases like the hemorrhagic septicemia.

Dorongon said this disease is a respiratory distress caused by bacteria and, if not treated, could kill livestock.

"With our vaccination program, we have reduced cattle stock mortality to an accepted minimum of one percent, which is not an economic threat to the industry," he said.

In response to an emerging restocking problem, the Cattle Raisers Association of Masbate Inc. (Carami) and the Brahman Foundation have petitioned the government to lift a law allowing only one cow per hectare of range land.

Dorongon said the two organizations made up of ranchers and breeders are negotiating for a more practical and economically viable ratio of 6:1, which means six cows can graze over a hectare of range land.

He said these efforts are gaining dividends.

'As far as we can see, there is no threat to the cattle industry of the province, rather we think that this economic trend is not merely sustainable," he said.

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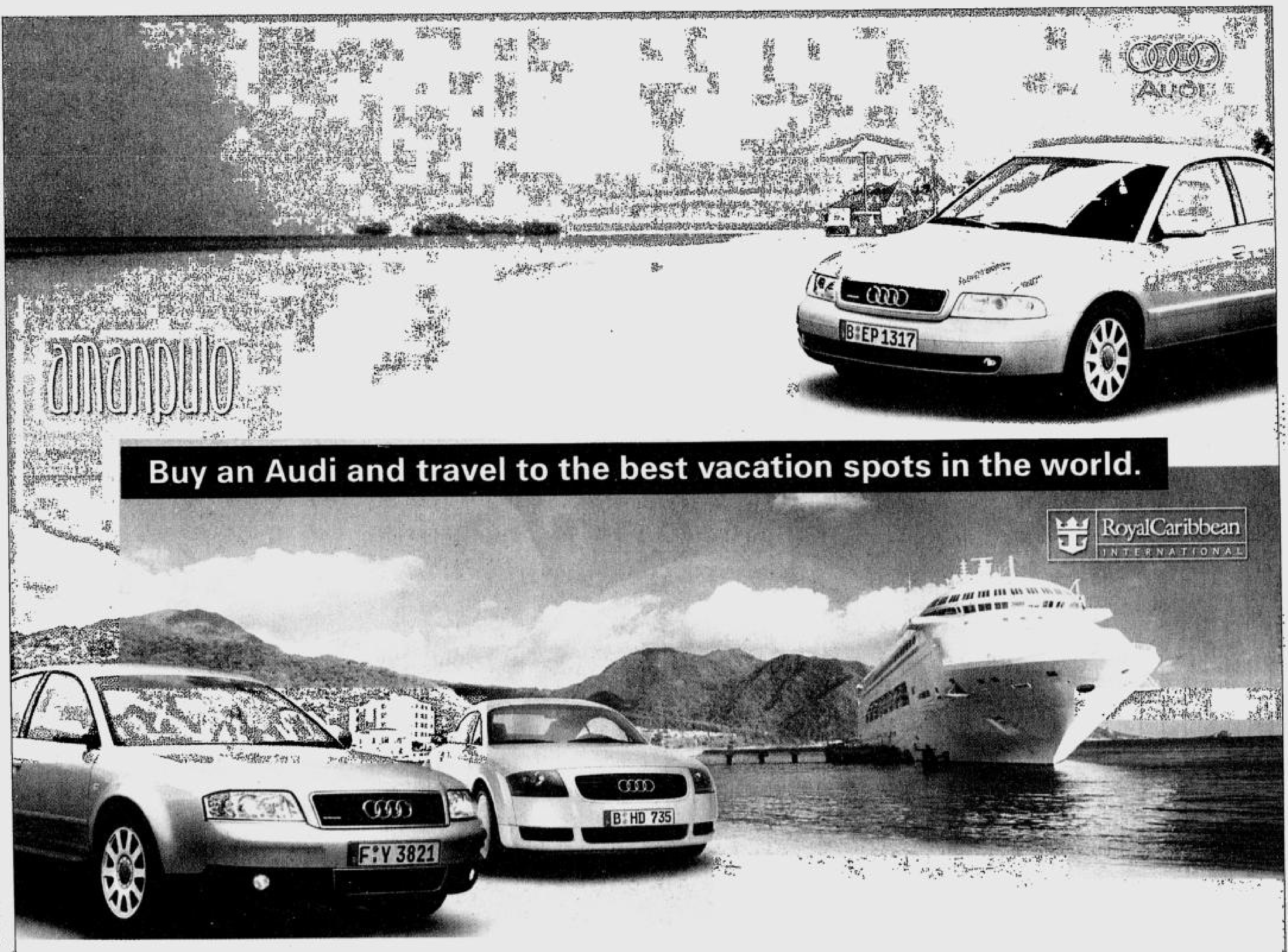
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Lady entrepreneurs to give livelihood to women

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

FILIPINO-CHINESE entrepreneur Myrna T. Yao has always been involved in civic work while she attended to the requirements of her company, Richwell Trading Corp., distributor of Goodyear tires and a line of branded toys such as the Barbie dolls.

She was also actively involved in social work through the National Council of Women in the Philippines and the 3-year-old Filipino-Chinese Federation of Business and Professional Women of the Philippines (Fil-Chi).

Yao, however, felt that there was still something missing. There must be something more she could do, she thought, to help other women than just donating regularly.

And apparently a lot of her colleagues in the different women's groups felt the same.

Fil-Chi, thus, launched The Philippine Livelihood Marketing Corp. (Philmaco) this year with the aim of providing sustainable livelihood to women interested to go into business, especially in the rural areas.

"It was good to help the indigents and donate school buildings but I felt that it was not sustainable, it ends when the donation is made. So I looked around and we in the group thought that we can only alleviate poverty if people can have a sustainable livelihood program," Yao tells SundayBiz.

Fil-Chi targeted the home-based women because the group believes that developing and enhancing the entrpreneurial capabilities of these women would greatly contribute to alleviating poverty in the countryside.

YAO says empowering women will solve the poverty problem.

Fil-Chi is definitely not the first committed organization to develop a livelihood program for women in the grassroots, but Philmaco differentiates itself by putting an accent on marketing—the expertise of many members of the Fil-Chi including Yao.

"There are many good programs but I thought that there was a disconnect between the production by the women's groups and the market that would buy the products. We can provide the conduit because we will be involved in marketing. In a way it is my forte because Richwell has been in marketing for over 20 years," Yao explains.

Philmaco was incorporated earlier this year with an P8 million start-up capital. About 25 members of Fil-Chi signed up as initial members with Nadeia Sarte as chairperson.

Yao says it was not difficult to convince the members to support the project, with everybody even giving their services for free.

Government agencies also pitched in, led by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority and the Departments of Science and Technology and Agriculture.

"It was heartening to note that everybody eagerly supported the project which goes to show that people are willing to work for something good. Virtually everyone I approached said yes to the project and I must stress that it is a partnership between Filipinos and Filipino-Chinese," she says.

Working within the group helped Filipino counterparts know more about the Chinese brand of entrepreneurship while the Filipino-Chinese looked at the project as a means to help their country.

Philmaco's maiden project is to come up with a line of food products to come from the different provinces in the Philippines, which would be marketed under the brand name "Nam-Namm" (a colloquial term for delicious.)

Tesda was tasked to provide the training of the home-based women entrepreneurs and quality control while Philmaco would provide the marketing, financial support and the packaging.

The DOST and the DA helped develop the priority food products which were identified as: low-sugar candied fruits, powdered fruit juices, preserved fruits, fruit and vegetable chips, mixed vegetables, sardines, fish chips, herbal tea, oil, vinegar, processed meat and fermented sea products.

"We are doing the taste testing now and we are scheduled to roll out the first products by May. We are happy because everybody in the group has committed to help push the products including the SM group," Yao says.

Under Philmaco's concept, the DA and DOST would formulate different products based on the abundant raw materials in their area. The products would then be marketed and manufactured in different Philmaco chapters across the Philippines.

"If we would be able to train different groups to make different products in their area, they can produce it themselves and we can sell it there. They no longer have to bring it to Manila, thus, saving on freight costs," Yao explains.

Region III, for instance, was identified for dried mango and processed meat, Region IV will produce herbal teas and beverages while Region XI will produce canton noodles with squash, seaweeds and saluyot.

Yao says Philmaco will be able to launch its first products just two months after it was formally launched this month because of the combined efforts of the government, the private sector, people's organizations and local government units.

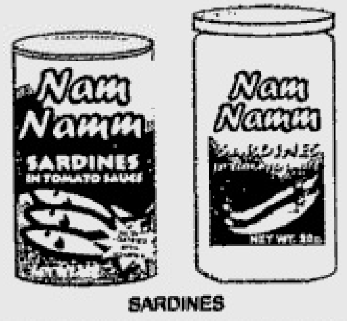
It was easy, she says, to mobilize these different groups because they all wanted to make difference in the lives of women in the rural areas. It also helps that they are business people, and that they are women.

"We are business people. We do not stop until we reach our goal. And being women, we like to work with details, we like everything just right," she adds.

Since most Fil-Chi members are in business, they would not tolerate sub-par products and quality is one of the main requirements of the Fil-Chi group for the products. The taste and the quality of the products, Yao says, must be world-class.

"Philmaco would be a profit-making company so the products and the packaging have to be good, but the profits would go back to the expansion of the project so that we could reach out to more home-based women," Yao adds.

Philmaco will concentrate on food products for the first two years, to be followed by handicrafts.



A SKETCH of the proposed Philmaco Sardine packaging

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QUALIFICATIONS: At least four years experience in user Helpdesk and support activities. Strong interpersonal and technical problem solving skills are required to resolve computer hardware, software and network connectivity related problems. Extensive knowledge and experience in setting up and troubleshooting of the following software/systems: WINDOWS NT, WINDOWS 2000, WINDOWS 95/98, MS OFFICE SUITE, LOTUS NOTES, MS ACCESS, IIS, MS EXCHANGE, MS OUTLOOK and VARIOUS GRAPHIC SOFTWARE. Experience in troubleshooting and repair of PCs, Printers, Peripherals, Notebooks and accessories. Working experience on the following are desirable: Banyan Vines Network Administration, Unix Systems Administration, Windows 2000 Administration, TCP/IP Networks, RDBMS, MS Access, Visual Basic, Web Server Administration, Web Development, PEARL and Java.

Bachelor of Science or equivalent level Business or Computer Engineering degree is highly desirable. Candidate must have excellent communication skills and be able to present information clearly.

COMPENSATION: Competitive salary (including mid-year and year-end bonuses), health and life insurance, and a retirement plan is offered.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NOT LATER THAN **APRIL 5, 2002.**

SEND LETTER OF APPLICATION WITH COMPREHENSIVE RESUMÉ TO:

Human Resources Division
P.O. Box EA 423
1000 Ermita, Manila

Albergus Management Inc.

Needs highly qualified applicants to be deployed in Metro Manila, Cavite and Cabuyao for the following positions:

Cafeteria Manager
- graduate of Food Service Management, BSND, HRM or any related course in a reputable school
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- computer literate
- possesses strong leadership qualities / abilities
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- willing to work long hours

Cafeteria Cook
- at least high school graduate
- experience in cafeteria operation required
- preferably male
- knowledgeable in International and Filipino cuisine

Storeroom / Stockroom Clerk
- preferably male
- at least 2nd year college level
- experience in storeroom / stockroom operation required

Cashier
- graduate of any 2 or 4 year course
- not over 35 years of age
- preferably female
- has pleasing personality and with good oral & written communication skills

Food Service Crew
- at least 2nd year college level
- experience in cafeteria operation preferred but not required
- preferably female
- has pleasing personality and with good oral & written communication skills
- position open to fresh graduates

Waiters and Busboy
- male, not over 40 years of age, minimum of 5'3 in height
- at least 2nd year college level
- has pleasing personality and with good oral & written communication skills

Interested applicants may mail or bring their resumé at:

Albergus Management, Inc.
c/o Ms. Lydes C. Flores/Ponette Santillan/Robert Lamprea
#16-a Capitol Hills Rd., Old Balara, Diliman, Quezon City
(from Monday to Saturday - 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. only)

The resumé should be accompanied with 2 pcs. 2x2 ID picture (recent), NBI or Police Clearance, Health Certificate and Letter of Recommendation.

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ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT (Code: AS)

Female, 21-26 years old; graduate of B.S. Accountancy; w/ at least 1 year experience in acctg. works & familiar w/ all gov't remittances; computer literate.

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Applicants may apply personally or send in/fax their resumé w/ 2x2 picture and transcript of records addressed to:
HR Dept. 2275 P. Burgos St., Pasay City. Tel. #831-96-68
Fax No. 831-29-45.

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1 SECRETARY I - SG-7; Item No. NNCB-SEC 1-2-1998; completion of two years studies in college, Experience not required; Training not required; 1st level eligibility.

1 DATA CONTROLLER I - SG-6; Item No. NNCB-DCTL 1-1-1998; Completion of two years studies in college or High School graduate with relevant vocational/trade course; Experience not required; Training not required; 1st level eligibility

For further information, please contact Mr. Benjamin C. Formento, Human Resource Management Officer III, Personnel Section, Administrative Division, tel. no. 892-8575.

(Sgd.) **CAROLINA BAUTISTA-BATALLONES**
Deputy Executive Director

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Interested candidates should mail/fax/email resumé to:

Plantek, Inc.
B.A.P.O. Box 80
40 Solar St., Bel-Air 3 Village
Makati City 1209
Telefax No. : (02) 896-6439
e-mail : dnchaudh@info.com.ph

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sbma

SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Building 255 Barryman Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines 2222
TEL. NOS. (047) 252 4270* 4214* 4124 FAX NO. (047) 252 4284

March 26, 2002

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

All parties interested to bid for the below-listed items are invited to apply for application for eligibility and to bid with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), Subic Bay Freeport Zone. Only eligible contractors/suppliers will be invited to participate in the bidding of the below-listed services;

A. Contracts: **SERVICE MAINTENANCE FOR SUN SERVERS AND RELATED PERIPHERALS**

B. Services to be performed include:
   I. Shall provide twenty-four (24) hours by seven (7) days a weeek on-call service for emergency breakdown support
   II. Shall provide the labor, parts and necessary tools and testing instrument needed to repair the unit
   III. Shall provide software and hardware maintenance and troubleshooting for Operating System and Bundled Software.
   IV. Quarterly preventive maintenance of Sun Servers and Peripherals (1 Lot)
   V. Upgrade of the following servers:
      Domain Name Services (DNS) server with Solaris OS
      Mail server with Solaris OS
      1Gb Memory Upgrade of Spectrum Server

C. Approved Budget Cost: **Php = Twelve Million Eighty Five Pesos (P12,085,000.00)**

D. Application for Eligibility and to Bid is open to all qualified contractors/suppliers. Prospective bidders are required to submit a letter of intent and certified true copy of the following documents:
   1. Article of Incorporation
   2. Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC) Registration
   3. Certificate of Registration with the Dept. of Trade and Industry (if not Corporation)
   4. Valid Mayor's Permit
   5. VAT Registration
   6. Audited Financial Statement for the last two (2) years (certified true copy in sealed envelope)
   7. Presence of Exclusive/Authorized/Sole Distributorship Agreement from the (OEM) Original Equipment Manufacturer, document duly notarized at the point of origin.
   8. Company PROFILE
   9. List of Products
   10. List of Clients

E. Deadline for submission of Accomplished for Eligibility to bid: **April 12, 2002, 5:00 p.m.**

F. Time and date of Pre-bid Conference and Submission and Opening of Bids shall be confirmed through Bid Bulletin.

Bid documents shall be issued only to the eligible contractor duly notified by SBMA in writing upon payment of the non-refundable cost of bid documents of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) only.

All particulars relative to the eligibility process, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by amended Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) for the procurement of Supplies & Materials.

SBMA reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any defect therein and accept the offer it deems most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO A. INOCENTES**
Vice Chairman, BAC

(PDI -- March 28, 31 & April 1, 2002)

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sbma

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BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Building 255 Barryman Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines 2222
TEL. NOS. (047) 252 4270* 4214* 4124 FAX NO. (047) 252 4284

March 26, 2002

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All parties interested to bid for the below-listed items are invited to apply for application for eligibility and to bid with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), Subic Bay Freeport Zone. Only eligible contractors/suppliers will be invited to participate in the bidding of the below-listed services;

A. Contracts: **ONE (1) LOT SECURITY SERVICES CONTRACT AT BTPI, SBFZ**

B. Approved Budget Cost: **Php = Two Million Three Hundred Twenty One Thousand and Three Hundred Eighty Two Pesos (P2,321,382.00)**

C. Application Particulars for Eligibility is open to all qualified Contractors with the following requirements:
   1. Article of Incorporation
   2. Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC) Registration
   3. Certificate of Registration with the Dept. of Trade and Industry (if not Corporation)
   4. SSS Registration and copy of R5 for the last two (2) years
   5. Certificate of Payment from SSS (latest)
   6. DOLE Registration
   7. Valid Mayor's Permit
   8. VAT Registration
   9. Audited Financial Statement for the last two (2) years (certified true copy in sealed envelope)
   10. Latest Income Tax Return from BIR
   11. License to operate issued by PNP (SUSIA) Camp Crame
   12. Accreditation & Certification from the Philippine Association of Detective & Protective Agency (PADPA)
   13. List of Equipment/ guns/ radios to be used on this particular project
   14. DOTC License for radios
   15. Non-pending case from the Department of Labor & Employment (DOLE)
   16. Required Drug Test for every Security Officers of the Company
   17. Security Bond from the Insurance company
   18. Company PROFILE
   19. List of previous & present clients
   20. Proposed Organizational Chart
   21. List of Clients

D. Deadline for submission of Accomplished for Eligibility to bid: **April 12, 2002, 5:00 p.m.**

E. Time and date of Pre-bid Conference and Submission/Opening of Bids shall be confirmed through Bid Bulletin.

Bid documents shall be issued only to the eligible contractor duly notified by SBMA in writing upon payment of the non-refundable cost of bid documents of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) only.

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(Sgd.) **ANTONIO A. INOCENTES**
Vice Chairman, BAC

(PDI -- March 28, 31 & April 1, 2002)

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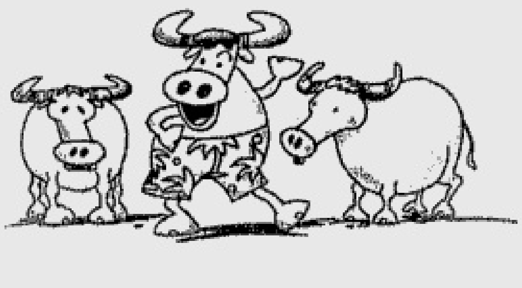

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"The Lord will fulfill
His purpose for me;
Your Love, O Lord
endures forever"
Psalm 138:8

THE YAN FAMILY

announces with deep sorrow the passing away
of our beloved

RICO

who peacefully joined his Creator
on March 29, 2002 at the age of 27.

His remains lie in state at the National Shrine of the Divine Child, La Salle Greenhills, Ortigas Ave., Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila.

Interment will be at the Family Mausoleum, Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Road, Parañaque City, Metro Manila on Thursday, April 4, 2002 after the 9:00 A.M. Mass and service.

Please omit flowers. Donations to the **RICO YAN YOUTH FOUNDATION**
will be much appreciated.

Mariano M. Pangan, PH.D.

Special Papal Awardee
PRO ECCLESIA et PONTIFICE

Fmr. Dean UST COLLEGE OF SCIENCE
Fmr. Dean UST FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

Peacefully joined his Creator on March 28, 2002
at the age of 81.

His loving wife **Mary** (†); children **Eddie Boy & Ninfa**, **Mary Ann & Craig**, **Ferdie & Emy**, **Larry & Undette**, **Bernard & Jamela**, **Seto & Rose**, **Bubot & Myrna**, **Gerry & Cynthia**; grandchildren, relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Sto. Domingo Mortuary of the Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on April 4, 2002 at Holy Cross Memorial Park after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

"The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want"
Psalm 23:1

Our Dearly Beloved Daddy

LEODEGARDO A. CABRERA

Peacefully joined our Lord on March 29, 2002
at the age of 76.

His loving wife **Lucy**; sister **Cena**; children & children-in-law **Rhea & Vince, Tiza & Karl**, **Alec, Meggy & Rene, Babu, Ricky & Ammie, Jakko & Virg**; grandchildren **Nicole, Su Mei, Chloe, Luigi, Mika, Adi & Sabby**; relatives & friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the St. Alphonsus de Liguori Church, Chapel 1, Magallanes Village, Makati City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, April 2, 2002 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque after the 8:00 a.m. Holy Mass at St. Alphonsus de Liguori Church.

JUDGE ZOSIMO ZAÑO ANGELES

of Hipodromo St., Sta. Mesa, Manila and Capalonga, Camarines Norte
(Retired RTC Judge Br. 58, Makati)

Peacefully joined his Creator on March 26, 2002
at the age of 78.

His loving wife **FLORA**; son **GEOFREY**; daughter-in-law **CORA**; grandchildren **CHRISTA & CLARISSE**; nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, April 2, 2002 at the Garden of Memories, Pateros, Metro Manila, after the 11:00 a.m. Mass.

We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God.

2 Corinthians 4:14

Pfizer

Pfizer, Inc.

announces with deep regret the passing of our

Former Vice President for Medical Affairs
&
President, Pfizer Philippines Foundation, Inc.

Antonio P. Perlas, M.D., M.P.H.

He joined his Creator on March 27, 2002 at the age of 64.

His loving wife, Vicki; children Mike & Dada, Noel & Via; grandchild Aiyana; brothers Jesus, Jr., Tomas, Manuel, Jesus Nicanor III, Vicente and Jose; sisters Marelou, Victoria, Perla and Mary Ann; relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Sanctuario de San Jose Parish, East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, April 02, 2002, at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City, after the Holy Eucharistic celebration at the Sanctuario de San Jose at 1 p.m.

Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again.

2 Cor. 5:4-5

VICENTE TANTOCO REYES

Peacefully joined his Creator on March 30, 2002
at the age of 92.

His bereaved wife **AURORA** (†); children **VIC (TOTO) & LINDA, LINO (AMBAL) & ANNIE, CHRISTY & BABY** (†), **ALICE & BOBBY** (†), **ANNABELLE & DANNY, BOY & LEI, IRENE & ALEX, CYNTHIA & MEL, TOLEN** (†), **BOG;** in-laws; nephews; nieces; grandchildren; great grandchildren; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

A Message of Thanks

We, the family and relatives of our dearly beloved

SUZETTE GAERLAN DELA CRUZ

who was called home by our Heavenly Father
on 16 March 2002

convey sincerely our deep and heartfelt gratitude to all those who, with great love and generosity, offered Holy Masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy and condolences, visited and kept vigil with us, attended the funeral rites, and who in countless and immeasurable ways condoled with and comforted us, gave spiritual and emotional support, in our time of bereavement.

Edgardo Romana Lorico Sr.

2nd DEATH ANNIVERSARY ON MARCH 30, 2002

Is lovingly remembered by his family, relatives and friends.
May he enjoy the eternal happiness in the kingdom of "God".

MASS OFFERED: March 31, 2002

OUR LADY OF ABANDONED Marikina City	6:00 AM
ST. JOSEPH PARISH CHURCH Proj. 3, Quezon City	8:00 AM
LUISIANA CATHOLIC CHURCH Luisiana, Laguna	8:00 AM
OUR LADY OF ANNUNCIATION St. Charbel Proj. 8, Quezon City	6:00 AM
TANJAY PARISH CHURCH Tanjay City, Neg. Orr.	6:00 AM
DIVINE MERCY Cubao, Quezon City	8:00 AM

HOLY ANGEL UNIVERSITY
Angeles City

Requests your prayers for the soul of

MAMERTO "Tok" GOMEZ NEPOMUCENO

President, 1975-1985
Director, Angeles Electric Corporation
Director, Angeles Power, Inc.
Director, Juan D. Nepomuceno Sons, Inc.
Director, TGN Realty Corporation
Director, Teresa Waterworks, Inc.
Director, Angeles Industrial Park, Inc.
Director, Astron Philippines, Inc.
Director, Angeles City Water District

Born in Angeles City on May 11, 1925, he was a loving husband to Yoli Sebastian, father to Chito and Bernie, grandfather to Manny, Chinie, and Pinky, and brother to Jave and Cion, Fr. Rely, S.J., Min (†) and Cristing, Miling and Chichi, Tess and Al (†) Wilkerson, Auring and Bud Valdes, Lula and Mike Zachodny, Sis. Josefina, OSB, and Peter and Wilma.

He peacefully joined his Creator on March 30, 2002.

His remains lie in state at Holy Angel University, Angeles City, and will be interred on Tuesday, April 2, 2002 at Holy Mary Memorial Park, Angeles City, after Holy Mass at 9 AM.

ENGR. MARIANO AGUDO BATAR

Former Principal Safety Engineer, Bureau of Working Conditions
Department of Labor and Employment of Caloocan City,
Cagayan de Oro City and Ivana, Batanes

Peacefully joined our Creator on March 28, 2002 at the age of 83.

His wife **Angeles "Gely" Bustamante**, children **Ma. Lourdes, Ma. Imelda** and **Jose Severo**, in-laws **Romeo** and **Marie Angeli**, grandsons **Kaiser Emmanuel** and **Jose Angelo**, sisters and in-laws, other relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel 5, Funeraria Floresco, A. Mabini St., Caloocan City.

Interment will be on Wednesday April 3, 2002 at the Eternal Garden in Balintawak, Caloocan City after the 8 a.m. Mass at the San Roque Parish Church.

Love does not die; People do
So when all that is left of me is love
Give me away...

Dominga Anico Andaman

"Nanay Inggay"

Founder and Treasurer
ST. DOMINIC MEDICAL CENTER, Bacoor, Cavite
and Bucal, Maragondon, Cavite

Peacefully joined our Lord on March 27, 2002
at the age of 78.

Her loving husband **GREGORIO Sr.**; children **PAT** and **Elvie**, **MARET** and **Rey Rillo**; **EMMIE** and **Joe Sagala**; **Mayor MONTE** and **Tita**; **YNN** and **Robert Pelia**; **JOJO** and **Pinky**;

GRANDCHILDREN **Anna** and **Boogie**, **Jane** and **Alain**, **Jade**, **Jasmine**, **Caroline**, **Gregorio III** and **Aimee**; **Reimarie**; **Julius Christian**, **Jeffrey**, **Jenny**; **Mon Anthony**, **Margaret Raizza**, **Dominga Erika**; **Angelique Lyn**, **Dominique Ann**, **Stephanie Joy**; **Greg Jinichi**, **Greg Cenon**, **Greg Dominic**, **Greg Luigi** and **Ma. Anastasia**; GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN **Patricia Audrey**, **Ima Karen** and **Matthew Dreyzel**; Brothers and sisters, in-laws and her St. Dominic Family request relatives, friends and readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Calle Valencia Cor. Calle Galicia, La Residencia de Bacoor, Aniban I, Bacoor, Cavite and will be transferred to the family residence in Bucal II, Maragondon, Cavite on March 31, 2002.

Interment will be on April 3, 2002, Wednesday at the Family Mausoleum, Bucal, Maragondon, Cavite after the 3:00 p.m. Mass.

Easter Tuesday, 02 April 2002 is the 40th day of passing away of our everdearest

Mercedes "Cheding" T. Mendoza-Ramos

Her husband **Paquito**; children **Rexy**, **Rene & Ellen**, **Rina & Nesty**, **Rico & Lani**, **Ramy & Marsha**, **Regy**; her siblings **Chay & George Mercado**, **Lody** and **Sol Mendoza**, **Agring(+) & Efry Pingol**; her grandchildren; nephews & nieces; other relatives, friends and all those whose lives she had touched request the pious readers to pray for her eternal happiness with our Lord, whom she joined on February 22, 2002.
Below is the schedule of the Holy Masses offered in her honor on April 02, 2002.

TIME	CHURCH	ADDRESS
5:30 AM	Our Lady of Lourdes	Retiro St., Quezon City
5:30 AM	Blessed Sacrament	Sta. Cruz, Manila
5:30 AM	Sta. Monica Parish	Minalin Pampanga
6:00 AM	San Roque de Manila	Rizal Ave., Blumentritt, Manila
6:00 AM	Espiritu Santo	Rizal Ave., Tayuman, Manila
6:00 AM	Mn. Basilica of the Black Nazarene	Quiapo, Manila
6:00 AM	Parish of San Matias	Sto. Tomas, Pampanga
6:00 AM	Holy Spirit Parish	BF Homes, Capitol Hills Quezon City
6:15 AM	Metro Cathedral of San Fernando	San Fernando, Pampanga
6:30 AM	San Agustin Church	Intramuros, Manila
6:30 AM	Immaculate Heart of Mary	U.P. Village, Diliman, Quezon City
6:45 AM	Our Lady of Grace	12th Ave., Grace Park, Caloocan
6:45 AM	Nuestra Senora del Pilar	San Simon, Pampanga
7:00 AM	St. Paul the Apostle	Ignacia cor. Timog Ave., Quezon City
7:30 AM	Basilica of the Immaculate Conception	Intramuros, Manila
12:00 NN	Parish of the Holy Sacrifice	U.P. Campus, Diliman, Quezon City
12:15 NN	Nat'l Shrine of the Most Holy Rosary	Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon City
6:00 PM	Our Lady of Fatima Chapel	Don Antonio Heights, Quezon City
6:00 PM	St. Peter Parish	Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City
6:00 PM	Sta. Maria della Strada	Katipunan Rd. cor Pansol St., Quezon City
7:00 PM	Jesus, Lord of Divine Mercy	Mapayapa Vill. I, Capitol Hills, Quezon City

A special Mass will likewise be celebrated in their residence at 3:00 PM
RMR Farms, Sta. Monica, San Simon Pampanga.

> *"surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of life, and I shall dwel in the house of the Lord, forever"*
> Psalm 23:6

REMEDIOS ANGELES REYES

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on March 28, 2002 at the age of 84.

Her loving husband **Arsenio**; children **Deo & Ellen**, **Angelo & Ditas**, **Seny & Raffy Zamora**, **Noel & Gema**, **Tino & Malou**; grandchildren **Mirelle**, **Colette & Giselle**; **Alex & Audrey**; **Rachelle**; **Aby**, **Timmy & Joel**; **Mike**, **Allan**, **Martin & Mark**; relatives and friends request prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Faith Chapel, Arlington Memorial Chapel,
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 AM on Tuesday, April 2, 2002.
Interment will immediately follow at La Loma Cemetery, Metro Manila.

HARRY S. STONEHILL ✡

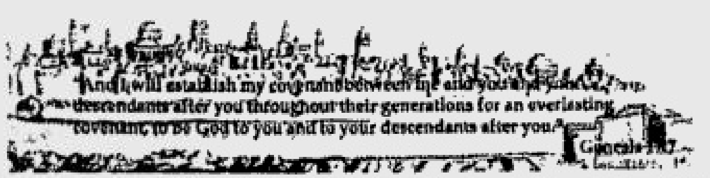
"In thy loving kindness, thou has led the people whom thou has redeemed."
Exodus 15:13

Peacefully joined his Creator on 20 March 2002 in Malaga, Spain, at the age of 85. Born in St. Louis, Missouri on 15 September 1917 to his loving parents, Samuel and Sarah Steinberg; brother, Joe Steinberg and sister, Ruth Kaufman.

Wife, Lourdes Blanco Stonehill and children, Elizabeth S. Levy, Susan Jane Stonehill, Michael Joseph Stonehill, Harry Steven Stonehill, Jr. and Katherine Stonehill; other children: Karen Johnson, Samuel Stonehill, Rebecca Stonehill and Luisa Stonehill.

His grandchildren, loved ones, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Memorial services was held in Spain at the Cemeterio International de Benalmedena and another will be held in Los Angeles on 7 April 2002.



And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you.
Genesis 17:7

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City; Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1259
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#2 Bayani St., Galas, Quezon City; Tels. 740-2883; 781-3705; 781-3680; 413-9400; 715-5594
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Magallanes Village, Makati City; Tels. 852-8228, 852-7284
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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any Identification document (I.D.)

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BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Building 255 Barryman Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines 2222
TEL. NOS. (047) 252 4270* 4214* 4124 FAX NO. (047) 252 4284

March 25, 2002

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

All parties interested to bid for the below-listed items are invited to apply for application for eligibility and to bid with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), Subic Bay Freeport Zone. Only eligible contractors/suppliers will be invited to participate in the bidding of the below-listed services;

A. Contracts: **ONE (1) LOT SERVICE MAINTENANCE FOR NETWORK EQUIPMENT.**

B. Services to be performed include:

Perform on-site complete cleaning, lubrication, adjustment, alignment, inspection and testing of all networking equipment and its accessories on a quarterly and shall provide a comprehensive report of equipment status;

Repair and/or troubleshoot all malfunctioning units or replace with new parts/ components within 2 hours to minimize downtime. There should be loaner equipment/ units and spare parts situated at the Data Center for emergency cases;

Provide twenty-four (24) hours by seven (7) days a week including holidays, on-call and phone support for emergency breakdown;

All replacement and upgrade of the equipment must be of the same brand/product (e.g. Cabletron, Pairgain, 3Com, Network Appliance)

C. Approved Budget Cost: **Php = Five Million Six Hundred Thousand Pesos (P5,600,000.00)**

D. Application Particulars for Eligibility is open to all qualified Contractors with the following requirements:
1. Article of Incorporation
2. Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC) Registration
3. Certificate of Registration with the Dept. of Trade and Industry (if not Corporation)
4. Valid Mayor's Permit
5. VAT Registration
6. Audited Financial Statement for the last two (2) years (certified true copy in sealed envelope)
7. Presence of Exclusive/Authorized/Sole Distributorship Agreement from the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM), document duly notarized at the point of origin.
8. Company PROFILE
9. List of Products
10. List of Clients

E. Deadline for submission of Accomplished for Eligibility to bid: **April 12, 2002, 5:00 p.m.**

F. Time and date of Pre-bid Conference and Submission/Opening of Bids shall be confirmed through Bid Bulletin.

Bid documents shall be issued only to the eligible contractor duly notified by SBMA in writing upon payment of the non-refundable cost of bid documents of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) only.

All particulars relative to the eligibility process, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by amended Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) for the procurement of supplies & materials.

SBMA reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any defect therein and accept the offer it deems most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO A. INOCENTES**
Vice Chairman, BAC

(PDI -- March 28, 31 & April 1, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF BENGUET
La Trinidad
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

INVITATION TO BID

The Province of Benguet, thru its PBAC, shall accept sealed bids not later than 12:00 noon on May 03, 2002 at the Office of the Provincial Governor, Conference Room, from contractors who are prequalified by the Provincial PBAC and classified as "Medium" by the inter-agency Committee and who have "SUBMITTED THEIR RENEWAL OF LICENSE FOR THE CURRENT YEAR AND OTHER RELATED DOCUMENTS DULY VALIDATED BY THE PROVINCIAL PBAC for the prosecution of the following infrastructure projects:

PROJECT TITLE:
1. Rehabilitation of JNR bad-ayan Coyapas Baogan Farm to Market Road at Baculongan Sur, Buguias, Benguet. AAE: P10,262,130.38
2. Rehabilitation of Oriao Daynas Andolor Farm to Market Road at Taboan Sur, Tuba, Benguet. AAE: P5,176,731.94
3. Rehabilitation of Junction Sagubo Gaswiling Farm to Market Road at Gaswiling, Kapangan, Benguet. AAE: P11,019,166.60

Cost of Bid forms/project: P500.00
Bidder's compliance with the following is enjoined:

1. Filing of letter of intent with PBAC Secretariat	April 15-16, 2002
2. Issuance of bid forms, plans and specs	April 15-16, 2002
3. Pre-bid conference	April 24, 2002
4. Submission of bids at Provincial Governor's Office	May 03, 2002 (8:00 AM - 12:00 NN)
5. Opening of bids	May 03, 2002 (2:00 PM)

Only the licensee with approved letter of intent by the PBAC chairman will be issued bid forms and shall personally sign the registry at the time of filing. SPAs will not be honored.

The Provincial Government of Benguet, thru its PBAC, reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects contained therein and to award the contract to the contractor whose bid/s, as evaluated, is most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **RAUL M. MOLINTAS**
Provincial Governor & PBAC Chairman

(PDI - March 24, 31 & Apr. 7, 2002)

Repubika ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education through the National Educational Testing and Research Center (NETRC) is inviting all printers to print classified materials (testbooklets) to be used in the National Diagnostic Test to be administered by the NETRC for Grade III and First Year student on June 20, 2002.

All interested printers must submit a Letter of Intent before obtaining bid documents starting **March 25, 2002** at the BAC Secretariat Office, Room 112-A, Mabini Building, DepEd Complex, Pasig City or visit the DepEd website at http://www.decs.gov.ph

A pre-bid conference will be held on **April 4, 2002**, 10:00 AM at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building I, DepEd Complex, Pasig City. The Submission and Opening of Bids will be on **April 18, 2002** at the same time and place mentioned above.

DepEd-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids.

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO S. PANGAN**
Undersecretary
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI -- Mar. 23 & 31, 2002)

INVITATION TO BID

The Pasig City Government through Pasig City General Hospital with principal office at F. Legaspi Ext., Maybunga, Pasig City hereby invites suppliers to a sealed bidding for various medical, dental, radiology, laboratory, waste management, various drugs & medicines, office supplies and hospital equipment for the 1st quarter of 2002.

ACTIVITY	TIME	DATE	PLACE
1. Pre-bid for various Drugs & Medicines	8:00am	4/01/02	PCGH, Conference Hall
2. Pre-bid various Medical, Laboratory, Dental, Radiology & Waste Management	10:00am	4/01/02	PCGH, Conference Hall
3. Bidding various Medical, Laboratory, Dental, Radiology & Waste Management	8:00am	4/11/02	Pasig City Session Hall
4. Bidding various Drugs & Medicines	8:00am	4/12/02	Pasig City Session Hall
5. Bidding various Office Supplies	To be announced (TBA)		
6. Bidding various Hospital Equipments	To be announced (TBA)		

The Pasig City Committee on Award shall award the contract to suppliers with the lowest qualifying bids. It also reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any minor deviation in the bid tender documents which does not affect the substance and validity of the bids and reserves the right to accept such bids most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **REYNALDO C. CABEÑAS**
City General Services Officer

(PDI--March 31, 2002)

Congratulations to

Dr. Willy S. Alba for successfully hurdling the examinations given by the Philippine Specialty Board of Gastroenterology this January 2002 and Philippine Specialty Board of Internal Medicine last January 2000. Dr. Alba graduated from the prestigious University of Santo Tomas, Doctor of Medicine 1994. He finished his residency in Internal Medicine at the Chinese General Hospital 1998, served as the Chief Resident in the same institution 1999 and completed his specialty training in Gastroenterology at the University of the Philippines - (PGH), Philippine General Hospital 2001. He has established his own specialty clinic at Centralle Medical Diagnostics and Polyclinic 6th Avenue, MH del Pilar, Caloocan City and Dr. Fe Del Mundo Medical Center at Banawe St., near E. Rodriguez, Quezon City.

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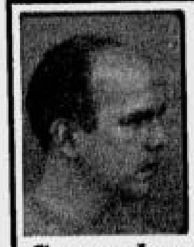

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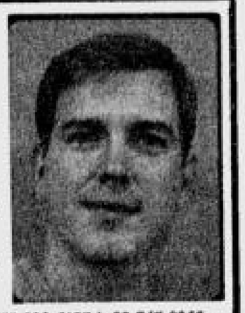

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Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City 100 Philippines
Tel. No. 925-2401

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Philippine Heart Center (PHC) invites sealed written bids for six (6) months (July-December 2002) contract Pharma Medical/Laboratory and Foodstuffs Supplies.

Only duly accredited bidders/suppliers will be allowed to participate in the bidding. List of the requirements to be submitted:

1. Letter of Intent
2. SEC Registration
3. Business License
4. License to Operate (BFAD)
5. Financial Statement (last 2 years)
6. ITR (last 2 years)
7. DOH Accreditation
8. Location Map of Office
9. List of Clients

All interested bidders/suppliers must submit their accreditation documents on or before **April 15, 2002** at Purchasing Division.

The PHC serves the right to disqualify any prospective bidder/s if found if they have submitted falsified documents and/or information the right to accept or reject any bid, and annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder/s.

(Sgd.) **ROMEO J. SANTOS, M.D.**
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI -- Mar. 22, 23, 24, 28, 31 & Apr. 1, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF REVISION OF RATE SCHEDULE TO COMPLY WITH REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9136, WITH PRAYER FOR PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY

ERC CASE NO. 2001-951

IBAAN ELECTRIC AND ENGINEERING CORPORATION (IEEC),
Applicant.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

Notice is hereby given of the filing by applicant Ibaan Electric and Engineering Corporation (IEEC) on December 20, 2001 of an application for approval of revision of rate schedule to comply with Republic Act No. 9136 with prayer for provisional authority docketed as ERC Case No. 2001-951. The applicant's proposed restructuring and/or reformatting of its existing rate structure in accordance with the prescribed Uniform Filing Requirements will result in an increase in its existing rates by P0.4418.

The Commission has set the application for hearing on April 18, 2002 at nine o'clock (9:00 AM) in the morning and two o'clock (2:00 PM) in the afternoon at the ERC Hearing Room, 15th Floor, Pacific Center Building, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

All interested parties who may wish to comment on or oppose the said application should file their comments and/or oppositions on or before the date of hearing. Such parties who may wish to have the details of the application and who shall have manifested to the Commission their desire and intention to participate actively in the proceedings, may request that before the date of hearing, they be furnished with copies of the application by the applicant, which is hereby directed to furnish the parties making such request with copies of the application and its attachments. Likewise, any such interested party may examine the application and other pertinent records filed with the Commission during the usual office hours.

WITNESS, the Honorable **FE B. BARIN**, Chairman, and the Honorables **MARY ANNE B. COLAYCO**, **OLIVER B. BUTALID**, **CARLOS R. ALINDADA** and **LETICIA V. IBAY**, Commissioners, Energy Regulatory Commission, this 7th day of February, 2002 at Pasig City.

(Sgd.) **FRUCTUOSO C. LAGUNZAD, JR.**
Officer In-Charge
Office of the Chief Executive Officer

(PDI - March 31, 2002)

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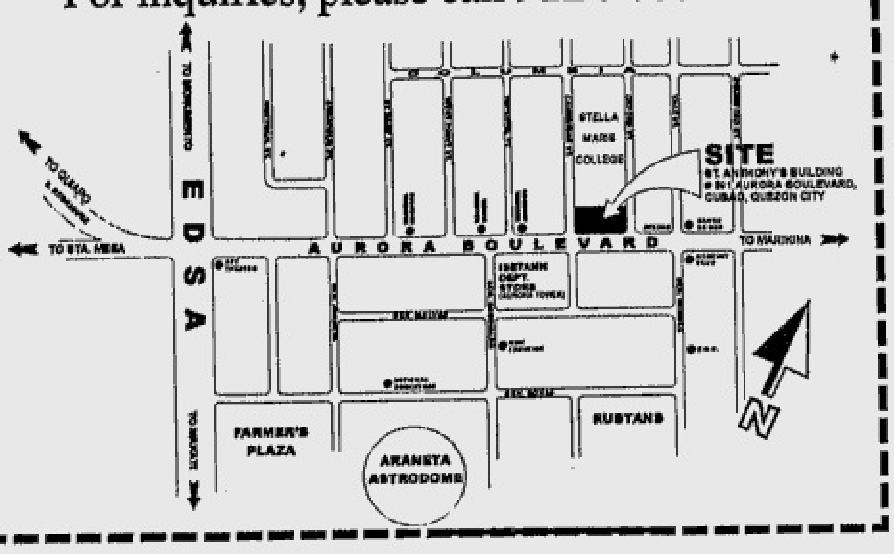

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PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God. I place in you all my interest and desires. Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers. Oh, St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask Him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls - Pray for me.

This prayer was found in the fiftieth year of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In 1505 it was sent from the Pope to Emperor Charles when he was going into battle. Whoever shall read this prayer or hear it or keep it about themselves, shall never die a sudden death, or be drowned, nor shall poison take effect on them; neither shall they fall into the hands of the enemy, or shall be burned in any fire or shall be overpowered in battle.

Say for nine mornings for anything you may desire. It has never been known to fail so be sure you really want what you ask.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen.

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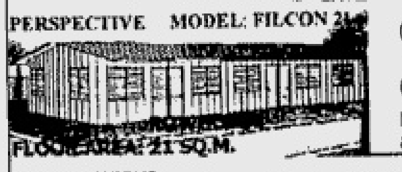
PERSPECTIVE MODEL: FILCON 21



FLOOR AREA: 21 SQ.M.

PABAHAY PACKAGE
(labor and materials)
P100,000.00/unit @
(P4,761.90/sq.m.)
Note: Breakdown based on a minimum of 100 units

SPECIFICATIONS:
*Ecopanel Walls, exterior and interior walls *Steel roof framing with #26 G.I. corrugated roofing * Door (hollow core) & windows (aluminum jalousie) * Electrical conduits including switches & convenience outlets * Plumbing conduits, w/ ordinary porcelain toilet bowl * Kitchen sink & counter * Floor slab and footings * Septic vault

Manufacturer : PHILIPPINE ECOPANEL, INC., H.O.-306 E. Rodriguez Sr., Blvd., Q.C.; Plant Location: Brgy. Aguado, Treco Martires City, Cavite ; For Inquiries pls. Call: May B. Lota (Q.C)- Tel. No. 415-6029, 741-0611; Jojo Paroginog (Cavite) - Tel. No. (046) 419-1826, Tel/Fax (046) 419-2234.

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Arch. Plan 4T Swim Pool
165T Cons't. T-5125327

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3 T'house/ Unit A-8,4BR, 4TB w/ attic & gar Baler Luxury T'house, LA 129 / FA 258 *Min.Bid-P5,495,000*
4 Res.T'house-2sty,2BR 2TB w/ ter & attic Lot3 Along Road Lot 3 Capitol Estates II LA 83.5 / FA 162.8 *Min. Bid -P2,460,000*
5 T'house/ L6 Martinez St. Doña Carmen Subd Commonwealth Ave. LA-48.4 / FA-84.8 *Min.Bid-P892,000*
6 T'house/ L7 Martinez St. Doña Carmen Subd Commonwealth Ave. LA-50.47 / FA-84.8 *Min.Bid-P897,000*
NEAR BLUE RIDGE, QC
7 Res'l H&L- 1-sty. w/ 3BR, 4TB, & gar. #117 Aquarius St., Cinco Hermanos LA 700 / FA 405 *Min.Bid-P8,500,000*
8 Res.Bldg-2-sty,3BR,2TB w/ Pelota Court & Sauna Aquarius St. Cinco Hermanos Subd. LA 700 / FA 413 *Min. Bid -P8,100,000*
CAINTA
9 Res. H&L - 4BR, 2TB L18-B B14 Boardwalk Dr., Parkplace Subd. LA 150 / FA 207 *Min. Bid -P2,050,000*

CAVITE
10 Res'l. Lot/ (Non-Fairway) L9 B54 Orchard Res. Estate & Golf & Country Club / LA - 388 *Min.Bid-P1,165,000*
11 Res'l. Lot/ (Non-Fairway) L3 B53 Orchard Res. Estate & Golf & Country Club / LA - 478 *Min.Bid-P1,435,000*
12 Res'l. Lot/ (Fairway) L31 B30 Orchard Res. Estate & Golf & Country Club / LA - 858 *Min.Bid-P3,265,000*
13 Res'l. Lot/ (Fairway) L17 B10 Orchard Res. Estate & Golf & Country Club / LA - 1,034 *Min.Bid-P3,930,000*
BULACAN - STA MARIA
14 Res.H&L-2BR,1TB B2 L26, Sunrays Vill., LA 70 / FA 30 *Min.Bid-P224,000*
15 Rowhouse-1BR,1TB B5 L5, Sunrays Vill., LA 40 / FA 24 *Min.Bid-P141,000*
16 Rowhouse-1BR,1TB B5 L6, Sunrays Vill., LA 40 / FA 24 *Min.Bid-P141,000*
17 Res. Lot - corner lot B2 L1, Sunrays Vill., LA 109 *Min.Bid-P153,000*
18 Res. Lot - corner lot B3 L4, Sunrays Vill., Corner lot / LA - 111 *Min.Bid-P156,000*
19 Res. Lot - corner lot B5 L1,Sunrays Vill. LA 89 *Min.Bid-P107,000*
20 Res'l. Apartment 5 door, 1TB each 725 Sitio Matang Tubig, Lote, Bo Guyong LA 150 / FA 150 *Min. Bid -P940,000*

PASIG
21 Res'l. Bldg. - 2sty Lot 16 Blk. 2 Yakal St. F. Agapito Subdivision Santolan, Pasig LA - 245 *Min.Bid-P3,125,000*
VALENZUELA
22 T'house- 2sty,2BR, 1TB Lot 1254B1A Kabesang Imo cor. Pili Sts. Daeto Subd., / LA- 40.49 *Min.Bid-P 599,000*
23 T'house- 2sty,2BR, 1TB Lot 1254B1B Kabesang Imo cor. Pili Sts. Daeto Subd., / LA- 36.43 *Min.Bid-P 539,000*
24 T'house- 2sty,2BR, 1TB Lot 1254B1C Kabesang Imo cor. Pili Sts. Daeto Subd., / LA- 51.72 *Min.Bid-P 766,000*
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27 T'house- 2sty,2BR, 1TB Lot 1254B1F Kabesang Imo cor. Pili Sts. Daeto Subd., / LA- 43.35 *Min.Bid-P 558,000*
28 T'house- 2sty,2BR, 1TB Lot 1254B1G Kabesang Imo cor.Pili Sts. Daeto Subd./ LA-43.13 *Min.Bid-P 555,000*
29 Res'l.Apart. 2sty, 4units 92 Int. G. Marcelo St. Maysan / LA-200 *Min.Bid-P 1,320,000*
30 Res'l. H&L - 1sty 23 St. Prince Sam Villa Subd. Malinta LA-152 *Min.Bid-P 1,500,000*

COMMERCIAL

MAKATI
31 Comm'l /Res Apartmnt 5units, 2sty L9A & L9B 1881 A-E Milagros (Reposo) cor.N. Garcia Sts TLA 455 / TFA 691 *Min. Bid-P14,000,000*
32 Com'l. Condo. / 5F Millennium Plaza, Eduque St., corner Makati Ave./FA 281.24 *Min. Bid-P17,785,000*
33 Commercial Lot Lot 1-B & Lot 2-B, Gil Puyat Avenue corner Marconi Street TLA 472 *Min. Bid-P24,544,000*
34 Vacant Lot - 3904 Quinquia St., Pinagkaisahan / LA 612 *Min.Bid-P17,600,000*
NUEVA ECIJA
35 Com'l. Bldg. - 3sty / Lots1B&2B, Maharlika Road, Poblacion, LA 420 / FA 470.4 *Min.Bid-P3,520,000*
36 Ind'l/Res.Lot-w/ whouse Lot2 Rd Dike, Daang Sarile, Valdefuente, LA 20,000 *Min.Bid-P20,800,000*
37 Agri. Land - Bo.Sto.Tomas Jaen / LA - 20.000 *Min.Bid-P5,400,000*
TARLAC
38 Com'l. Lot. Rizal cor. Panganiban Sts /LA-2,981 *Min.Bid-P31,000,000*

KALOOKAN
39 Comm'l Warehouse 2 storey / #428-10th Avenue, Grace Park LA 480 / FA 847 *Min. Bid -P7,100,000*
40 Comm'l Bldg. -3 sty. w/ Mezz. & Roofdeck 84-4th St, Grace Park LA 650 / FA 1,925 *Min.Bid-P16,000,000*
QUEZON CITY
41 Com'l./Res'l.Bldg - 4sty unfnshd/ 394-A Sangandaan, Nova. LA-218 / FA-721 *Min.Bid-P4,100,000*
42 Ind'l.lots-6 lots/ Brgy. Nagkaisang Nayon TLA- 34,045 *Min.Bid-P85,000,000*
BULACAN
43 Ind'l. Lots-(9 Lots) Lots1B6A to 6G, 1B1B/1B5, Bahay Pare Bagbaguin,Meycauayan TLA 9,975 *Min.Bid-P16,000,000*
44 Res'l.Aprtmt 2-sty 30-door / M.Santiago Road, Llas, Bo. Ibayo Marilao / LA-334 *Min.Bid-P5,100,000*

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45 Com'l./Res'l.Bldgs. 1931&1933 Rizal Ave. LA-675 / FA-2,457 *Min.Bid-P35,100,000*
46 Unfnshd 7-sty Com'l. 951 Arlegui St. Quiapo LA-402.7 / FA-2,634 *Min.Bid-P14,110,000*
47 Lot w/ w'house & office Int Rd. Alunan St.Pasay NLA-1,381.9/FA-772.3 *Min.Bid-P35,000,000*
48 Dormitory 3-sty/ 352 M.F. Jhocson St. Mla. (On short-term lease) LA 489.3/TFA 1,620.5 *Min.Bid-P21,300,000*
49 Comm'l/Res Bldg - 3 sty 2518 Felix Huertas Sta. Cruz (on short-term lease) LA 198 / FA 539 *Min.Bid-P12,311,000*
VALENZUELA
50 Ind'l Lots-8 lots /Brgy. Maysan, Valenzuela TLA 15,997 *Min.Bid-P8,990,000*
51 Ind'l Lot-Brgy.Maysan LA 3,400 *Min.Bid-P2,455,000*
52 Ind'l Lot-Brgy. Lingunan LA 7,841 *Min.Bid-P4,600,000*
BATANGAS
53 Com'l. lot w/ whses J. Gonzales St., Bo. Bagaspas, Tanauan LA-47,950 / TFA-2,831 *Min.Bid-P44,850,000*

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Parkvw, Sunvalley 2-Stry, 2BR w/ Mds Rm, w/ Tel., Nice Kitchen, 8072885 Lani/Tirso

PASIG

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FA 235 sqm 3br 2tb 2Prkg Renaissance Call 634-1212

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QUEZON CITY

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Sunday **LIFESTYLE**

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

Prayer as prescription

"CHILD" by Glenn Bautista

By Cathy Babao Guballa

JESS Lantin was out on his balcony one evening when an excruciating pain suddenly came over him. "I thought I was going to pass out," he said. Lantin had been suffering from kidney stones, and a couple of weeks earlier his doctors had told him surgery was the only option available to him. Upon hearing their prognosis, Lantin went into deep prayer and asked the elders at his church to pray for his healing as well. That evening, after writhing in pain for several minutes, an unexplainable peace washed over him and soon the pain subsided. "I knew that very instant I had been healed," Lantin says. True enough, after a thorough examination a few days later, his doctors were baffled—all of Lantin's stones were gone.

Gabbie Santiago, one of Manila's five prettiest this year, was a very sick baby with a slim chance of survival many years back. Her cardiologist, Dr. Edgardo Ortiz, says they did not think Gabbie would make it. "She had a condition called Transposition of the Greater Arteries (TGA), and back then the only option available was to do a heart transplant," he relates.

> Patients who leave up their diseases to a combination of doctors, drugs and deity stand a better chance of recovering, according to studies

Gabbie's parents brought her to a healing place in Lipa, Batangas where they stormed the gates of heaven with their prayers. Upon their return to Manila, everyone, including Dr. Ortiz, was astonished at the miracle that took place—Gabbie's condition had vastly improved, and her heart returned to normal without need of any surgery.

Powerful

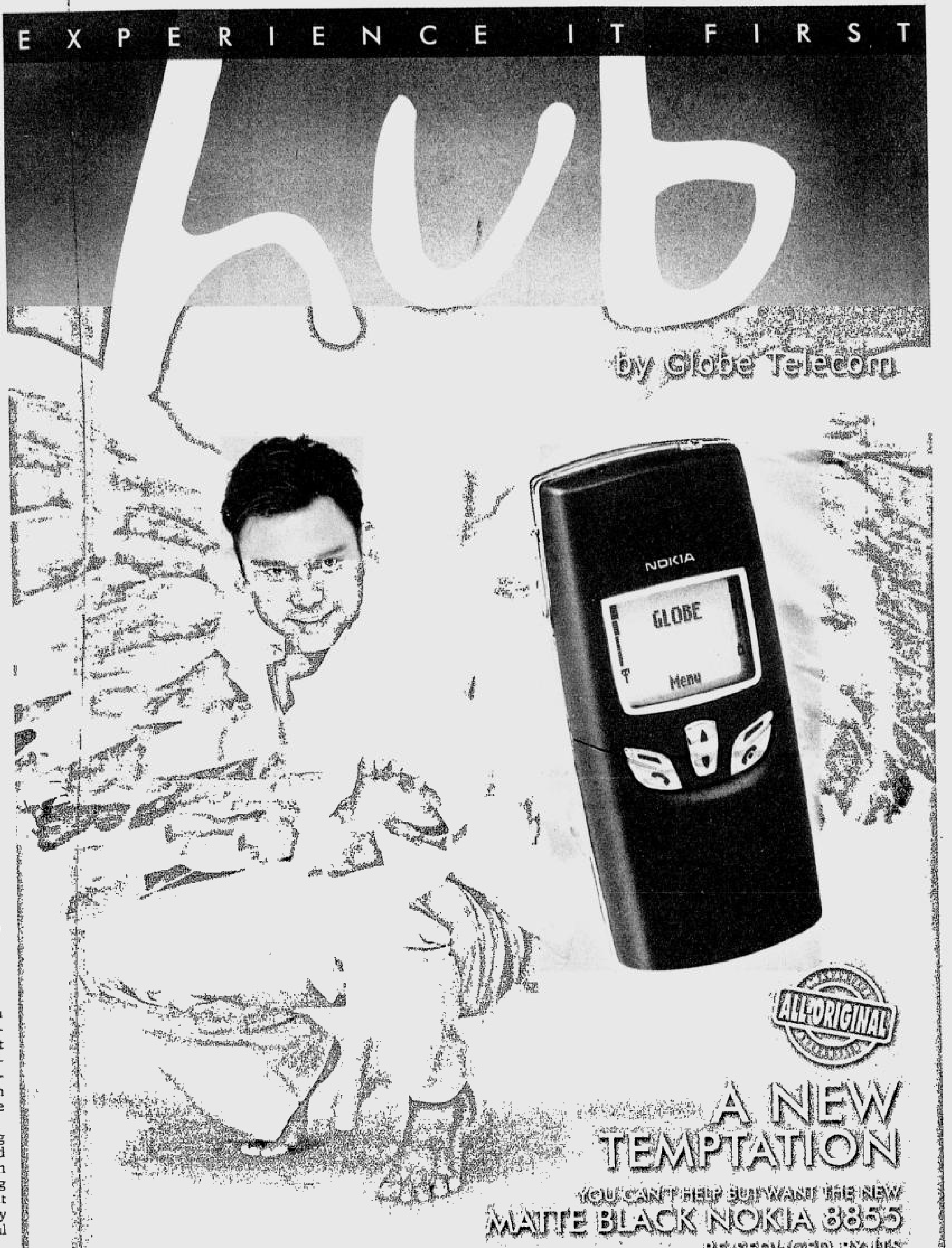
Prayers are powerful and miracles only come from God. Fr. Corsie Legaspi, the healing priest, says, "Faith is one thing, but it is only by God's mercy that we are healed."

He emphasizes: "Doctors, priests—we are only all conduits of God's healing power."

Roy and Sasa Felipe, the couple who heads the Deliverance and Counseling Ministry of the Christ Commission Fellowship (CCF) church, have seen many miracles in their visits to the sick every week as they pray over them or pray for them from afar. Like Father Corsie, who staunchly believes that "illness does not come from God," the Felipes say "sickness does not come from God but He allows it for a purpose. Character building, kindness, patience, endurance compassion are some of the things we learn when we go through an illness."

In Father Corsie's point of view, illness results from five factors—genetics, negligence, placing wrong things in our body such as the wrong food or excessive alcohol, contamination (from contagious diseases) and old age.

PRAYER / p.C4



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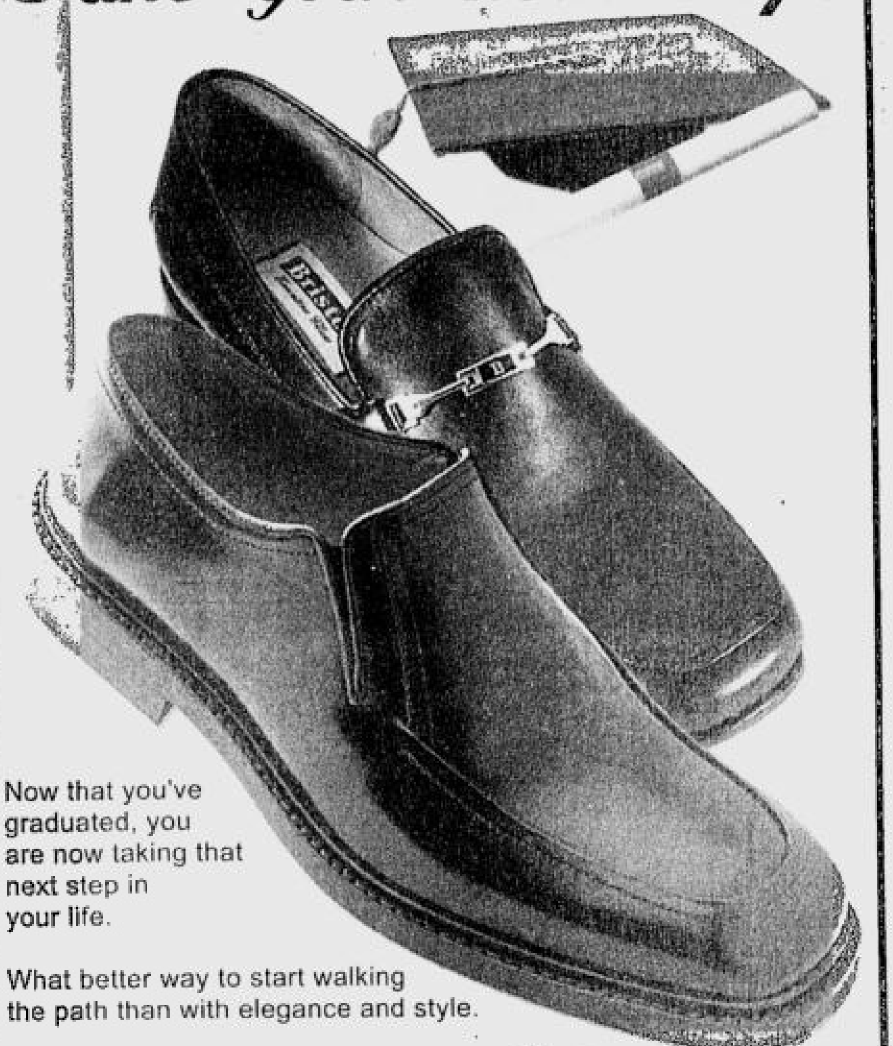

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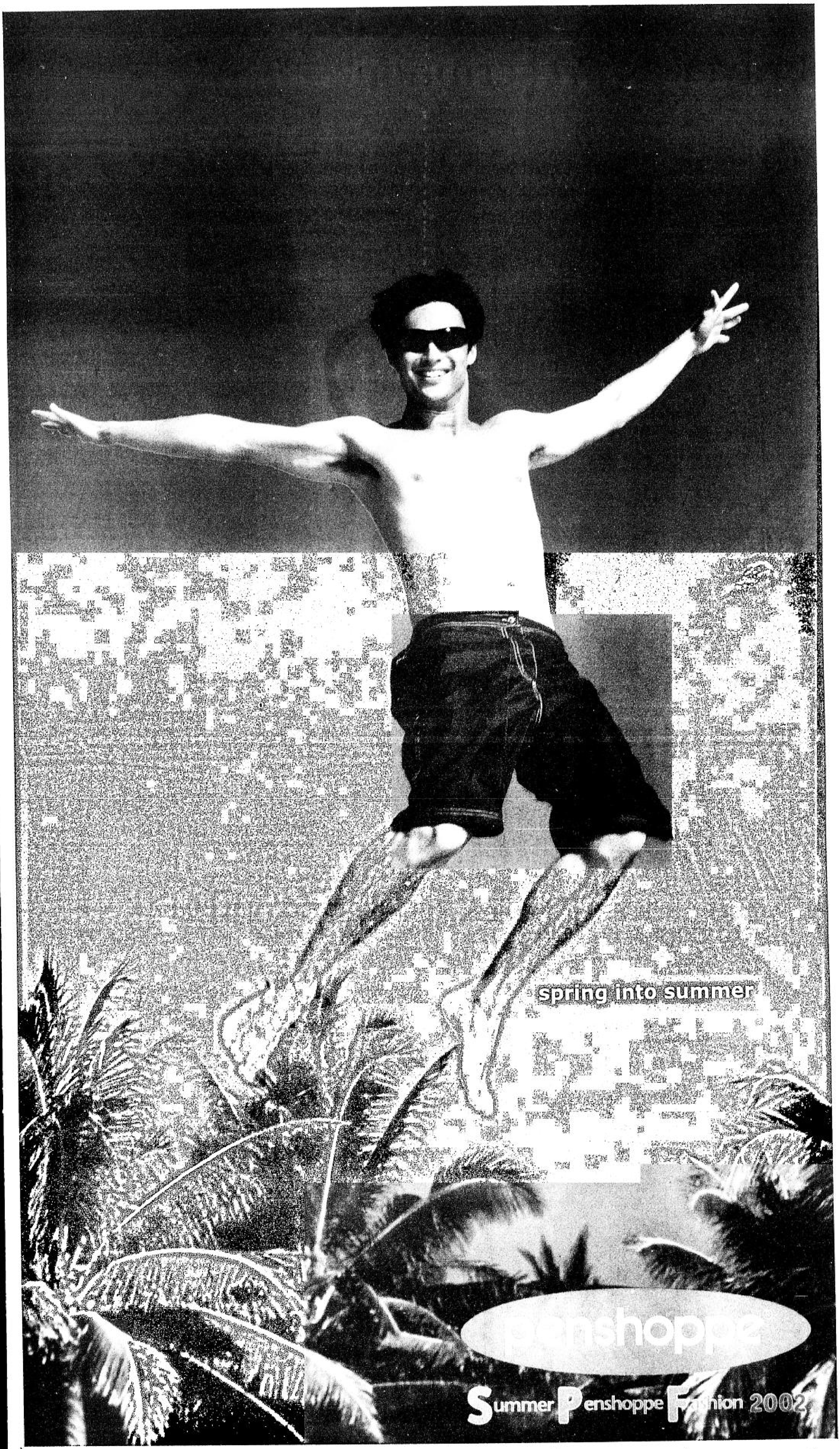
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Prayer as prescription

For a Catholic country, the Philippines still has to incorporate the spiritual dimension into its medical curriculum; by contrast, a third of all medical schools in the United States have integrated 'spirituality education' into their required curricula

From page C1

"Never think that God gave you your illness. God's role is to heal and to sanctify, why would He contradict himself?" he says.

Health benefits of prayers

The November-December 2001 issue of the Saturday Evening Post reports that in the United States, research focusing on the power of prayer in healing has nearly doubled in the past 10 years. According to David Larson, M.D., M.S.P.H., president of the National Institute for Healthcare (NIH) Research, NIH "refused to even review a study with the word 'prayer' in it four years ago." Now the nonprofit private agency is funding a study on prayer through its Frontier Medicine Initiative program.

In the same report, Dr. Mitchell Krucoff says that although reports have previously been anecdotal, they are now being replaced by systematic investigations and clinical research backed by subsidies from the NIH and the government.

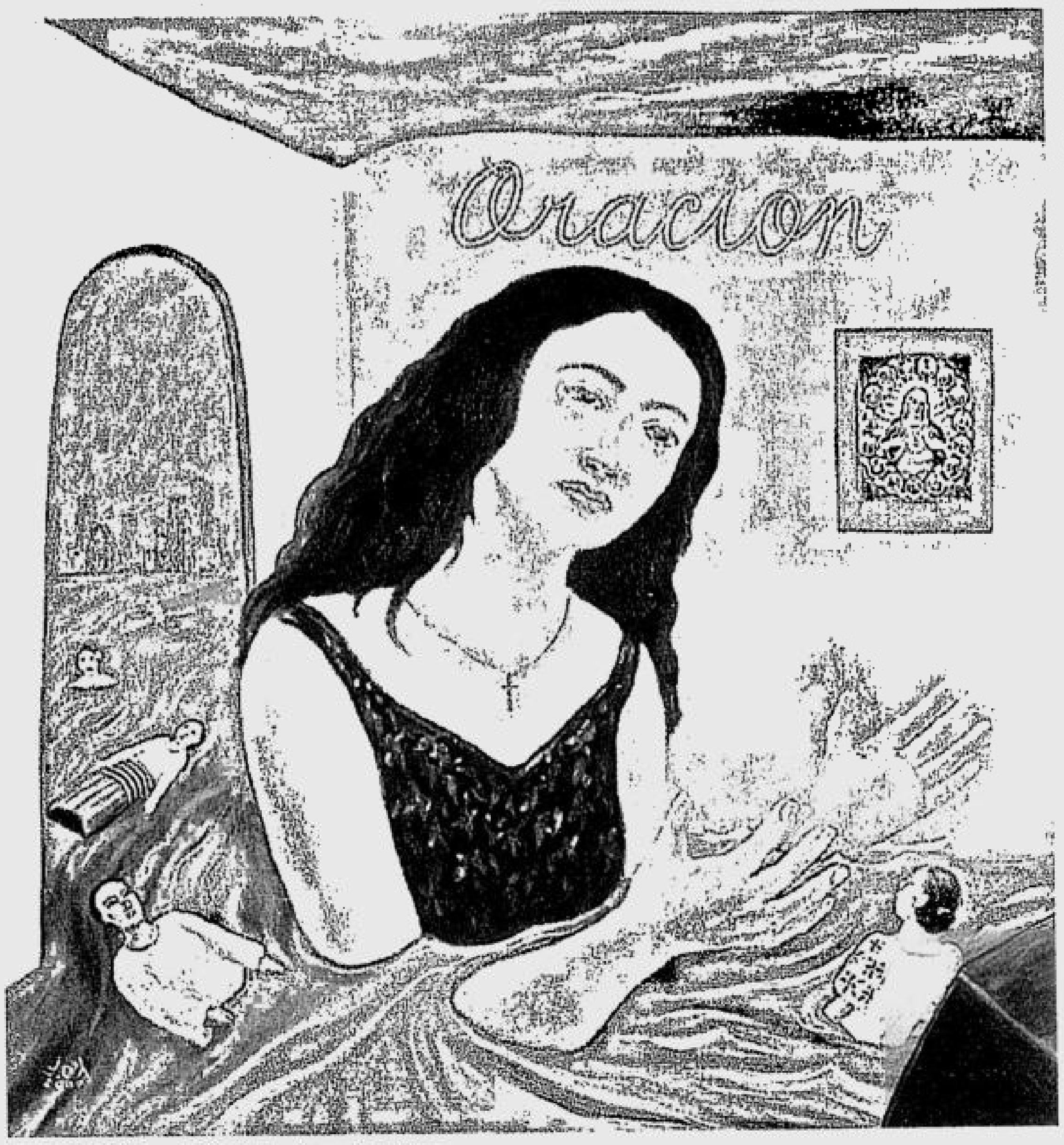
Krucoff is a cardiovascular specialist at Duke University School of Medicine who has been studying prayer and spirituality since 1996. "All of these studies are remarkably consistent in suggesting the potential measurable health benefit associated with prayer or spiritual interventions," he says.

Krucoff emphasizes that they do not regard prayer as an alternative to angioplasty. "We're looking at whether, in all of the energy and interest we have put into systematic investigation of high-tech medicine, we have actually missed the boat. Have we ignored the rest of the human being—the need for something more—that could make all the high-tech stuff work better?"

Now science and medicine are discovering that spirituality and religion can enhance a person's healing, something which philosophers have known for centuries. Perhaps Plato said it best: "The great error in the treatment of the human body is that physicians are ignorant of the whole. For the part can never be well unless the whole is well."

Resurgence of studies

In his book "Prayer and Healing," Dr. Reginald Cherry cites the 1984 landmark study conducted by cardiologist Randolph Byrd that led to a resurgence of studies on the effects of prayer on healing. At the San Francisco General Hospital coronary care unit, 201 patients were computer-assigned to a control group while 192 patients were likewise computer-assigned to be prayed for daily by five to seven people in home prayer groups.



"ORACION (Sea of Mist)" by Karen O. Flores

The test was a randomized, double-blind experiment; in other words, the patients, the nurses or the doctors did not know which group the patients were in. The results of the study were reported in the July 1998 issue of the Southern Medical Journal. Cherry writes that Byrd found the following marked differences between the control group and those prayed for:

- Those prayed for were five times less likely to require antibiotics.
- They were three times less likely to develop pulmonary edema, a condition in which the lungs fill with fluid.
- None of those prayed for required endotracheal intubation, the insertion of an artificial airway in the throat, compared with 12 in the control group who required treatment.
- Fewer patients in the prayed-for group died.

Cherry says Byrd's study is regarded as extremely significant so much so that even hardcore skeptics who previously debunked faith healing have been quoted as saying, "Maybe we doctors ought to be writing on our order sheets, 'Pray three times a day.' If it works, it works."

Biology and belief

In the Philippines, however, only recently have doctors begun to be vocal about incorporating a dose of spirituality into their practice. Ortiz, president of the Philippine Heart Association, has no qualms whatsoever in sharing his faith with his patients and their parents.

"Before surgery, I always tell my patients not to place their trust in the doctor but in the Lord because He will be the one to guide the hands of the surgeon and to guide us in our decision-making," he says.

Ortiz belongs to that special breed of doctors who address their patients' emotional, psychological and spiritual needs far beyond the medical needs of the patient and his family. In doing so, his relationship with his patients and their families take on a deeper dimension.

Dr. Marvie Abesamis, head of the Tumor Clinic at the East Avenue Medical Center and this year's TOWNS recipient in medicine, is another doctor who encourages her patients to rely on the Lord for healing. "We can only do so much. When we've given the patient and his family all that medicine can do, we

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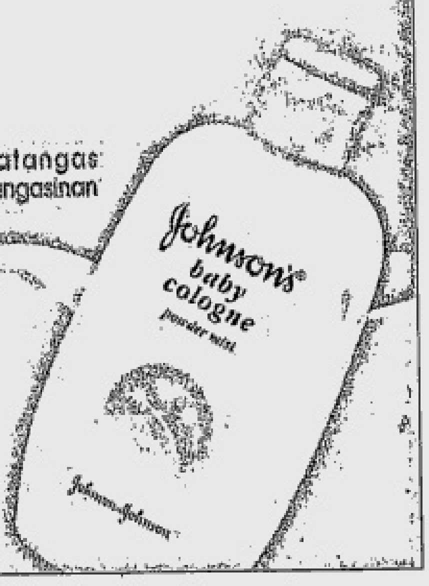

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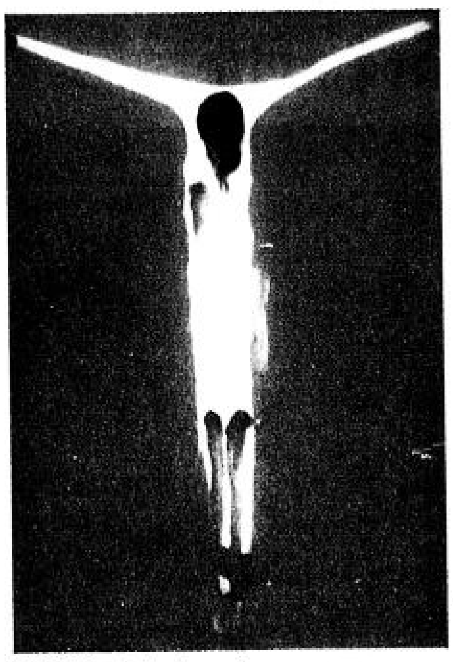


MARK Justiniani's works on paper

Prayer as prescription

From page C4

need to leave the rest to God," she says.

Abesamis, a pediatric oncologist, says that even she draws her strength from the Lord, "Of course, a part of you dies and weeps when a patient goes, but after much prayer you realize you cannot stay in that depressed state because there are many others who depend on you as well," she adds.

Even if the patient does not have a strong faith in God or a prayer life, Ortiz and Abesamis still go ahead and share their beliefs. "It's up for them to take the advice or not. That's really just the way I am, and I feel that my responsibility will not be complete if I do not address the spiritual as well," Ortiz stresses.

Three-legged stool

Ortiz and Abesamis are doctors who look at medicine as a "three-legged stool," a term first coined by Dr. Herbert Benson, a behavioral medicine specialist at Harvard University considered a visionary leader in the approach to medicine that considers the patient's faith, or belief system, as important as pills.

Benson says caring for the patient should be like "a three-legged stool where one leg is pharmaceutical, one is surgical and the third leg is self-care." The third leg, Benson says, balances the entire approach and includes nutrition, exercise, stress management, spirituality and faith."

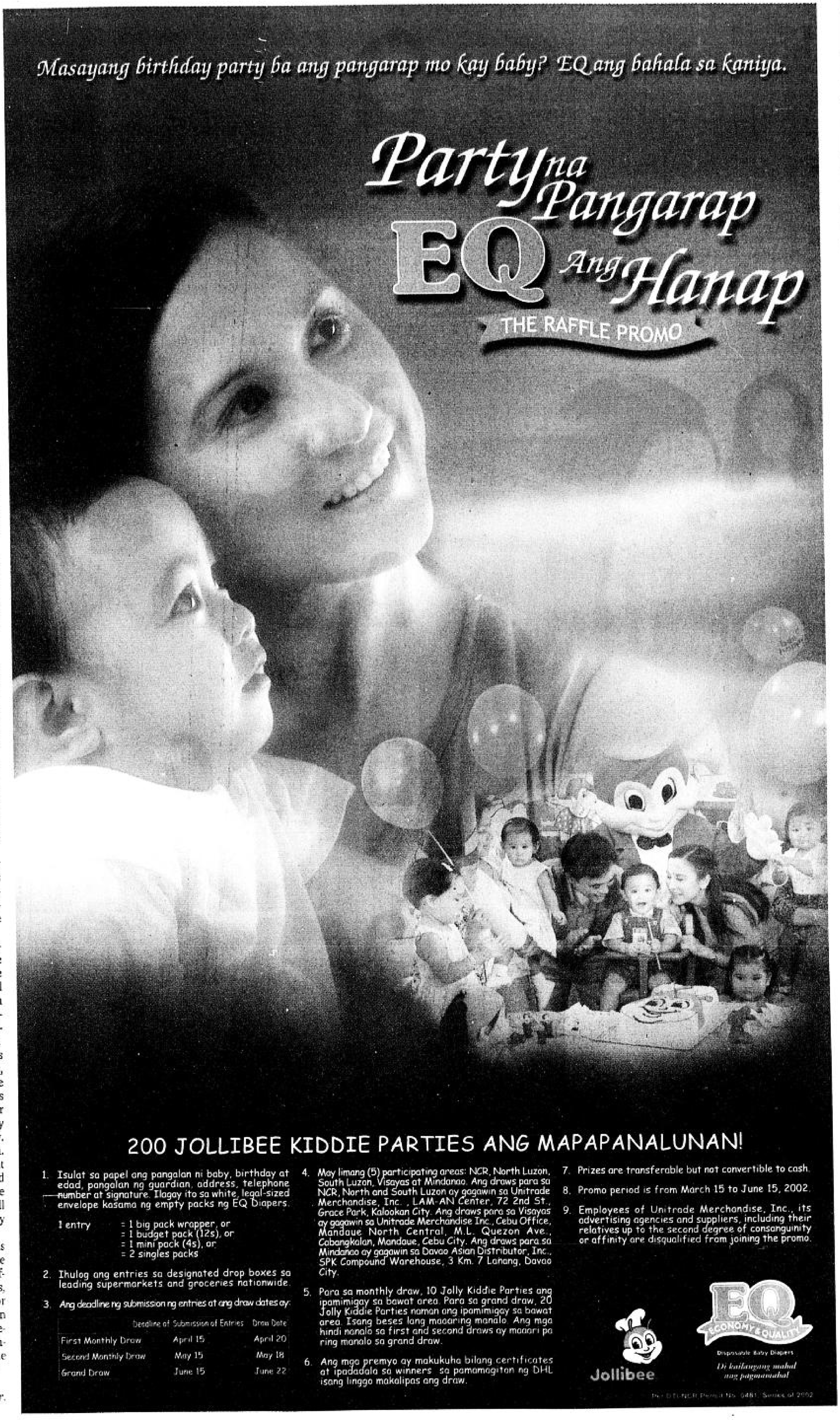
Recognizing this, Cherry writes in "Prayer and Healing" that out of 126 medical schools in the United States, a third have now integrated "spirituality education" into the required portion of their curricula, and more than 50 now offer elective courses.

At the recent Pain Society of the Phils. convention held in Cebu, many doctors were of the belief that there should be a realignment of the medical curriculum in Philippine medical schools. It was stated that the curriculum needed to be more holistic and in doing so, spirituality and healing courses should be an important component of a young doctor's education.

Abesamis, who literally takes charge of cases that border on life and death on a daily basis, has seen both the miracles of healing and the sadness that comes with parting countless times. Having very young patients makes her task even harder, and to date there are only nine pediatric oncologists in the entire country. Admittedly, it's a tough field of specialization. Aware of this, Abesamis is the first to say that she seeks the wisdom and guidance of the Lord every step of the way—from the moment she gives the prognosis, through the treatment, all the way to the end, which can be either a happy recovery or a sad demise.

Cherry echoes the same sentiments in his book, "As a medical doctor, I am keenly aware I am only a helper in the healing process. After I've diagnosed the likely cause of an illness, prescribed the appropriate medication or treatment... there's precious little else I can personally do. The real, actual healing is beyond my control. More than anyone else involved, I realize and acknowledge that the patient's recovery is up to a higher power."

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph



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Foundation gives hope to poor school children in Cavite

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

EASTER brings hope to the children of Nuestra Señora de Guia Parochial School in Magallanes, Cavite as a foundation and readers pledge support for their continued education.

I came across the school's problem when Emy Hernandez of the Central Bank Governor's office informed me about the lack of funds to pay teachers adequately as the children, who are mostly from poor families, fail to pay their tuition fees.

Last Christmas, Fr. Gilbert Reyes, parish priest and school principal, could not even give them bonuses. I wrote about the problem, and readers responded by calling up Emy. But the problem has not been solved yet as there are 90 children from Grades 1-6 who need help.

Matthew 25:34-40 Foundation

I was guided to call Consuelo Roceles, who formed the Matthew 25:34-40 Foundation to help the poor. First, the foundation helped ex-prisoners by teaching them how to make candles. Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez's office gave subsidy to pay rent for a room, which was used for this purpose. The candles were a hit.

But after two years, the mayor's office withdrew support so the project was shelved as the foundation could not afford to pay the rent of P8,000 every month.

I asked Roceles to help the school by finding sponsors for the schooling of the children, which is only P4,000 a year. She said yes, and we even visited the school and church on March 2.

The old church of Magallanes is dedicated to Nuestra Señora de Guia. It was during the term of Fr. Vir Mendoza that the parochial school was built in 1986. Surprisingly, the graduates of the school were able to pass entrance exams to the Philippine National High School, according to Myrna Gutierrez, a school teacher.

Our Lady seemed sad

Since the Masses for Sunday are scheduled at 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. only, the church seems empty and lonely. I felt that Our Lady looked sad on her throne at the right side of the altar. There is only one Mass every day at 6:30 a.m. It seems that she wants more visitors to her church. She is called Our Lady of the Way by the Canossian Sisters who have been helping the church since 1982.

We also visited the convent of the Canossian Sisters who also give recollections for one day to people who need spiritual upliftment. The convent does not have facilities for stay-ins, but sitting in their chapel and listening to Sr. Merna Virtucio are enough. The image of Mother Bakhita, who was canonized on Oct. 2, 2001 in Rome, can be found inside the chapel.

Those who wish to have a recollection can call Sister Merna at (0917) 429-6737.

How to help the school

FR. Gilbert Reyes with Consuelo Roceles and Emy Hernandez

Those who wish to be a sponsor for a child can call Lency Roceles at 823-2240 or deposit to Fr. Gilbert Reyes' account at PNB-BSP with savings account no. 224-522-834-4. Please call Emy Hernandez at 523-8811, if you wish to deposit.

The Matthew 25 Foundation has been guided by the Biblical passage: "Whatever you do to the least of my brethren, you do it unto me." Thank you for your kindness.

Former abortionist turns pro-life

FR. Bernard Nathanson, who was in Manila for a series of lectures on pro-life, told me there were two things that happened to him that made him very happy. He called them the happiest days of his life: First was when his son was born and, second, when he was given Catholic baptism on Dec. 3, 1996 at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York.

His son Joseph was with him when he came to Manila last February and during the presscon at The Manila Hotel. But it was not always that way for Dr. Nathanson. He was an instrument in the death of 75,000 unborn fetuses.

The grace of God, however, touched him when Fr. John McClosky, an Opus Dei priest, prevailed on him for 14 years to repent and give up abortion activities.

He finally did, which resulted in his conversion to the Catholic faith. Certainly, such act boosted the pro-life activities in the States. The Defensoris Fidei Foundation brought him to Manila for a series of talks, while Charisms Inc. arranged his media appearances.

Pro-life in the Philippines

Dr. Nathanson also boosted the cause of pro-lifers in the Philippines. But what was most encouraging was the putting up of a big sculpture on unborn babies by Dr. Ton Raymundo in front of the Quiapo Church. The sculpture reminds everyone about the sacredness of life. Commissioned by Pro-Life Int'l. through the Pro-Life group here and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, the sculpture is a constant reminder that we cannot take life on our own. Another sculpture on pro-life by Dr. Raymundo is displayed on Anonas Street corner Kamias Street, QC. Called "Shrine of the Unborn Child," the sculpture was commissioned by Grand Knight George Banal.

Blessed Margaret of Castello

Although Our Lady of Guadalupe is the patroness of pro-life, Blessed Margaret of Castello is the saint for the saving of unborn fetuses. Margaret would have been aborted had her parents known she would be born blind and a hunchback.

Ashamed of her, the parents hid her in the forest, walked her up inside an old church with only slits to receive Holy Communion and food.

Her chaplain, however, was sympathetic and helped her become close to God. When she was 20, her parents brought her to the shrine of a saint asking for a miraculous cure, but nothing happened so her parents simply abandoned her.

This did not make Blessed Margaret bitter. She lived among beggars. Much later, Margaret joined the Third Order of Dominicans, after she was rejected by the nuns of the order. This is why you can find her image at the right corner when you enter the main door of Sto. Domingo Church.

It is said that God has performed miraculous cures through her intercession. A group of devotees say her novena every Thursday at 5:30 p.m., followed by a Mass.

Her feast day is on April 13. She died at 33 and was beatified in 1609. Her incorrupt body is encased in a glass coffin at the chapel of the School of the Blind in Castello, Italy.

For novenas, please write me and enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. I'll send a clear Xerox copy of the novena.

Parish assignments

FR. Sannie de Claro was installed as the new parish priest of San Jose de Navotas Parish on March 8. Jaime Cardinal Sin himself was there, together with Bishop Bacani and Bishop Yalung. Present were 30 priests and 3,000 people coming not only from the parish itself but also from Isidro de Labrador Parish, Our Lady of the Assumption Parish in Leveriza and San Roque Parish in Caloocan.

St. Anne Shrine

THE ARCHDIOCESAN Shrine of St. Anne in Taguig has a new rector in the person of Fr. Roy Rosales. The image of St. Anne here is believed to be miraculous for saving people from the Japanese during the war.

St. Vincent Ferrer feast day

THE FEAST of St. Vincent Ferrer is on April 5. He is the patron saint of Odiongan, Romblon. Those in Manila can attend Mass at the Sto. Domingo Church.

Jean Harn, 19
Carla Paredes, 2
Gem sa, 23
Jika David, 24
Gomez, 26
Tricia Sardua, 27
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Timely lessons from an Easter miracle

By Lourdes Cinco-Beloso
Contributor

MAXIMO Cinco Jr. as a young lay leader in the parish of Paco

FOR FOUR years now since he suffered his second and third strokes, both within the Holy Week of 1999, Dad has been attached to the NGT (nave gastric tube), a medical device inserted through the nose and going down to the stomach to feed bed-ridden or comatose patients.

We consider Dad's case a miracle. A third attack is usually fatal for most heart patients. But what happened during the Holy Week of 1999 continues to awe us all—my mom, my six brothers and sisters, our relatives and other people, including hospital personnel, who witnessed it.

My father had his first heart attack and a stroke in 1992, which left half of his body paralyzed. He was confined in a hospital for several months, after which he underwent a series of therapy sessions, first in the hospital and later at home. His recovery was impressive. He regained his speech and his ability to walk. He was able to attend Sunday Mass in church again, Lenten and Advent street Masses in our community, although seated on a wheelchair. In 1996, carried by my brothers and houseboys, he voted during the senatorial elections. He brought two daughters and accompanied a son to the altar on their weddings.

Holy Week ordeal

On Maundy Thursday, April 1, 1999, his birthday, he had his second attack, brought on perhaps by the excitement of and fatigue from a celebration held three days earlier.

At the Manila Doctors Hospital emergency room, the physicians declared him clinically dead. The scars of the previous attack had weakened his heart, however. His heartbeat often became faint and the doctors had to use the defibrillator to revive him. Then he fell into a coma. The doctors warned us to prepare for the worst. No one knew when he would wake up. The neurologist told us frankly, "If the comatose state is prolonged, your father could become a vegetable in case he regains his consciousness." My mom remained composed despite that stunning announcement, clutching her rosary beads and saying her prayers quietly.

On Good Friday, the family gathered for what we thought would be a death scene. I recall reading Psalm 23 by Dad's bedside. I was told that this was a powerful prayer for a dying person. Quietly, my mom said that if the Lord was going to take him, it would be on a Saturday, the day most Marian devotees went back to their Creator. Dad is a diehard Marian devotee.

Several priests came to prepare him for the Lord. Relatives and friends streamed in continuously. We continued to pray to God—alternately pleading for Dad's recovery and resigning to His will. I whispered to my Dad not to worry about us and that it was okay for us to let him go. By the time Holy Saturday came, the end seemed inevitable.

Miraculous recovery

It seemed, however, that God had a different plan for my father. My dad woke up, looked for my mom and asked to kiss her. It was an awesome scene. With newfound strength, my dad even tried to pull the respirator tube from his mouth.

Over the next days, the burns on his chest resulting from the use of the defibrillator to revive him began to heal.

His cardiologist considered it remarkable that all his organs were functioning again. The doctor acknowledged that only God could have made this happen.

Although he had another attack, his third, shortly after, which rendered him speechless and unable to eat through his mouth, the memory of his astounding revival the day before Easter Sunday still gives me goose pimples.

Despite his present condition, we remain grateful that God allowed Dad to be still with us.

Our gratitude has prompted us to try to interpret the Lord's inscrutable ways.

Symbolism

Dad, deprived of speech, dependent on others, seems to be a symbol of many things wrong with all of us.

When I watch him being fed through the tube, I feel remorse and guilt for all the active and healthy members of the family who nitpick about the food, who clamor for what is not available, who indulge beyond reason.

Seeing Dad lying on his back for hours on end, occasionally turned sideways to relieve him of heat and discomfort, I think about how easily we complain about the heat, always reaching out for a cold drink or seeking cool comfort.

I often watch Mom coaxing short monosyllabic answers from Dad to sustain his contact with reality through words that still ring a bell, like the names of family members and relatives, important dates in our lives. Even with his limited vocabulary, he is able to please my mom and reassure her that he is still very much around. Then I realize how we don't often use our gift of speech to comfort, to thank, to praise, to encourage others. Instead we use that gift to ruin reputations, to spread rumors, to befoul an already polluted social environment.

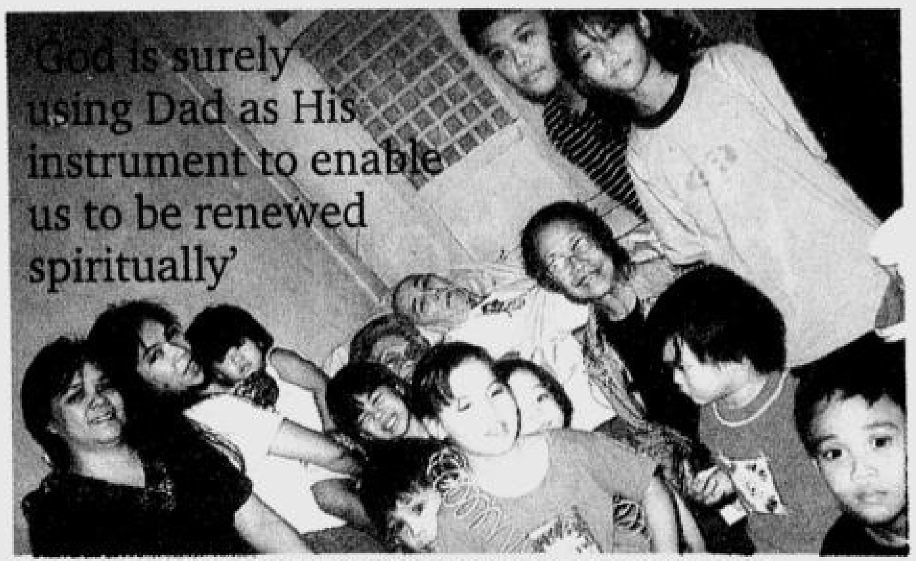
Despite her numerous work in our parish in Paco, Mom finds time to watch television with Dad at his bedside the spiritual programs of EWTN (Eternal World Television Network), Sunday TV Mass for the sick, charismatic and worship song sessions, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, the Holy Rosary and, of course, basketball, the sport nearest to his heart.

I believe God is surely using Dad up to now as His instrument to enable not only us, his family, but even friends, relatives and all the people who visit, to be renewed spiritually. The latest to drop in was an orthopedic surgeon who had been in Dad's basketball team in Xavier School and who told him, "Coach, you were my second daddy in school." When Mom asked what Edgar Eufemio's position in the team was, Dad, quite lucidly answered, "Captain."

Even in his helplessness, Dad awakens feelings of bonding and gratitude in those whose lives he has touched.

Every month, Dad's NGT has to be replaced. For this procedure, all of us children pray for him 30 minutes before the new tube is inserted. Collectively, wherever we are, we ask for the intercession of Mama Mary and our favorite saints to "please manage the procedure taking place in Dad's room. Help him to cooperate by swallowing as directed." The prayers always work.

This Holy Week when Christians meditate on Christ's suffering, death and resurrection, my family will once again, for the fourth time since 1999, reflect on how the symbolism of Jesus' martyrdom has actually manifested itself in our family, on how Dad has suffered with and for Christ until now.



'God is surely using Dad as His instrument to enable us to be renewed spiritually'

ALTHOUGH bed-ridden now, he's still very much around, here shown with grandchildren and nieces.

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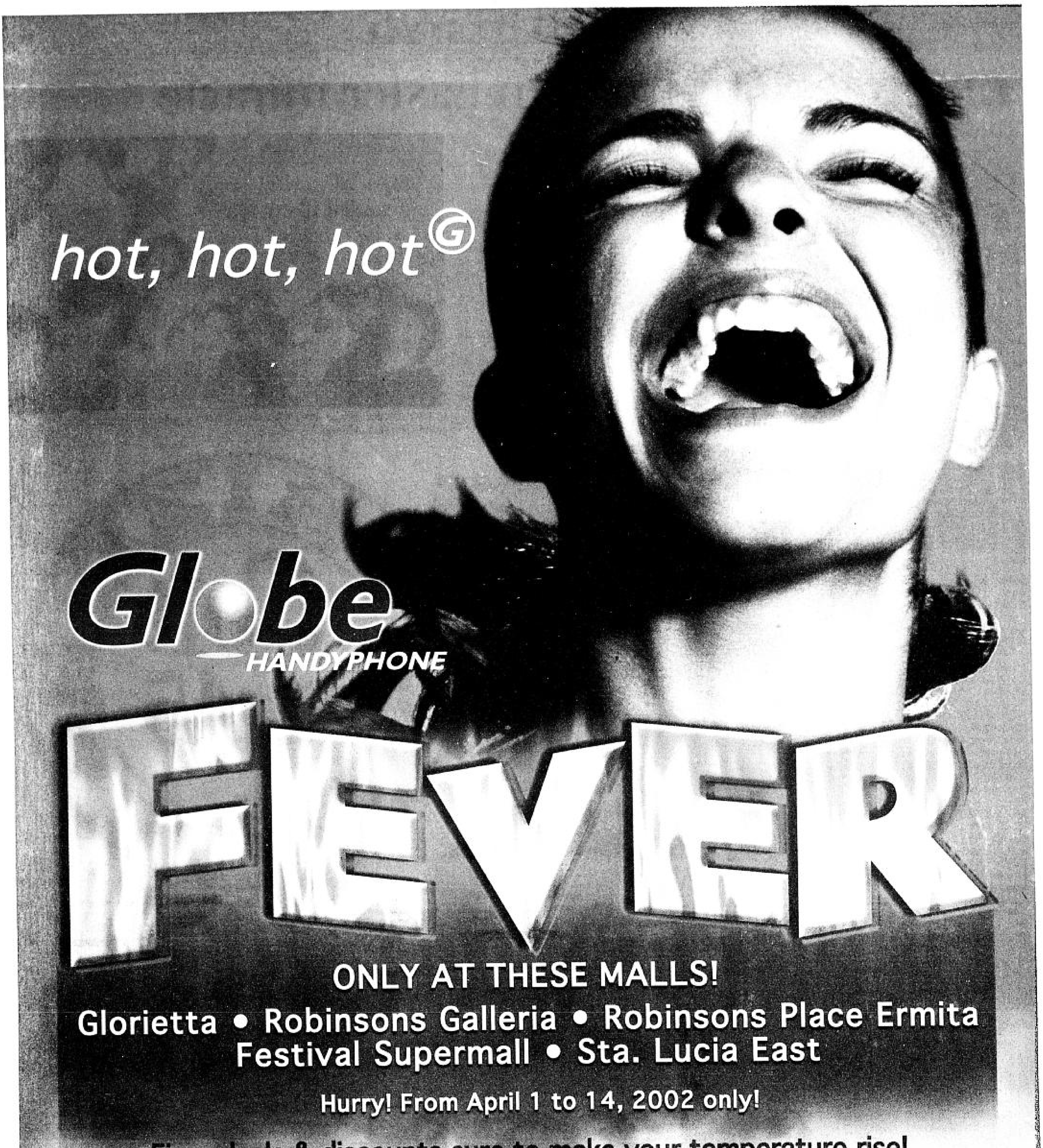

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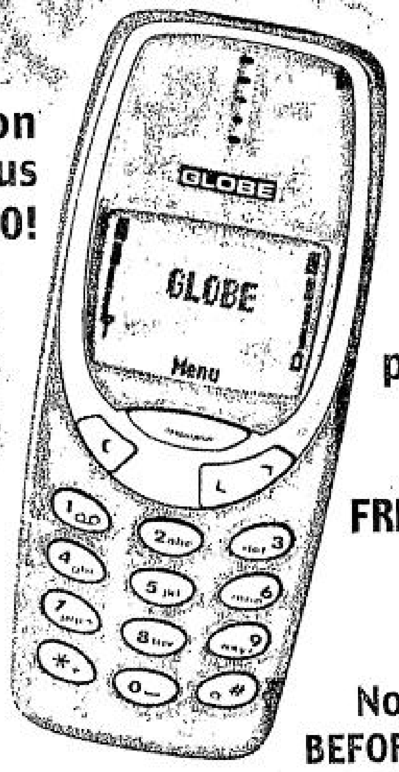

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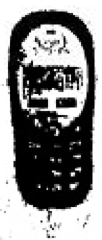

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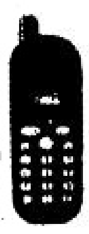

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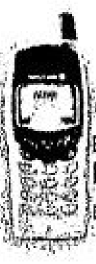

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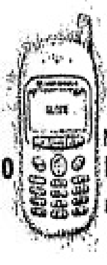

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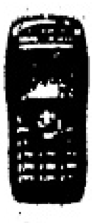

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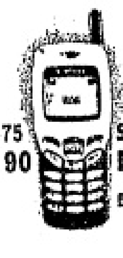

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Style and scourge at the Film Academy Awards

p. D2

Old-style Hollywood glamour at the Oscars

p. D2

The curse of being tall

p. D4

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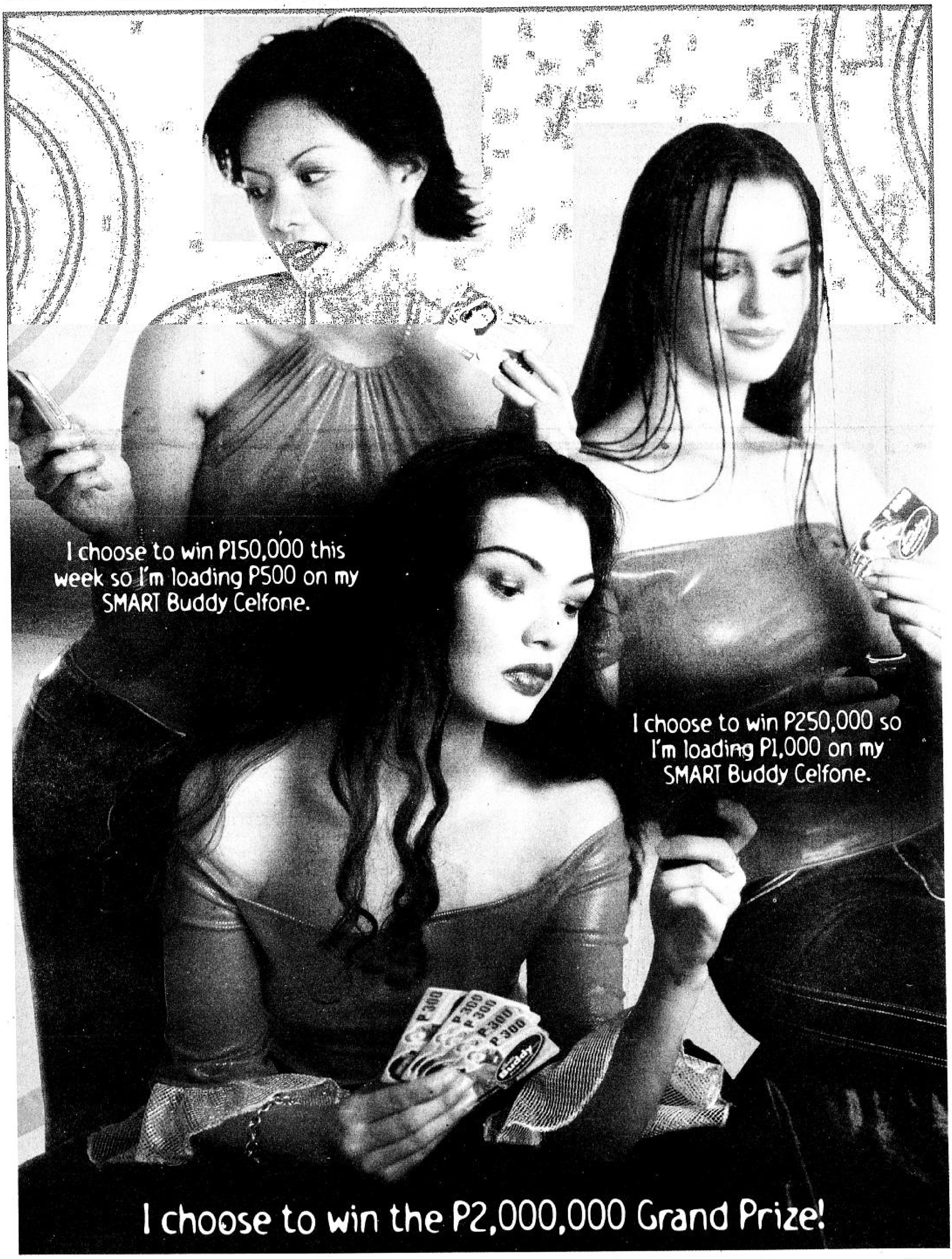

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Style and scourge at the Film Academy Awards

Lorna Tolentino's gown evoked victory, Gretchen Barreto looked divine and Ynez Veneracion had catastrophe written all over her

By Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Mike Alquinto

LOCAL filmdom's fairest didn't have to lambast us on TV to get even. Many of them did us one better: They showed up at the recent Film Academy of the Philippines awards in stylish and well-structured gowns that befitted their stature and image.

Lorna Tolentino led our cast of well-dressed women. The evening's best actress looked every inch a winner in Paul Cabral's pink strapless crêpe de Chine column. Black panels accented both sides of the skirt to taper Lorna's full hips and make her look taller.

If anything, the look evoked a confident actress who had nothing more to prove. A pair of diamond earrings and hints of Swarovski beads on the skirt did nicely, thank you. She earlier opened the show as one of the evening's hosts in Cabral's draped silk chiffon in flaming fuchsia, with an asymmetric neckline that flattered those lovely collarbones. What a vision!

Comeback

Not that Gretchen Barretto was wanting in attention. In our book, the comeback star looked divine in Inno Sotto's layered chiffon number, also with an asymmetric neckline. The magician in Inno was again at work. The actress's willowy extension, for instance, was part of the main fabric that to the naked eye seemed like another piece.

Actually, Gretchen could have done away with those attention-getting baubles. Such a beautiful face needed no further distractions. But when you have it, why not flaunt it? Inno chose varying shades of coral fabric to match Gretchen's pearl-and-diamond necklace by Bulgari. She completed the look with a pair of diamond earrings.

Almost a decade after joining the Miss World pageant, Ruffa Gutierrez was still in beauty queen mode. We've got to admit, though—that look still works for her. This time around, Inno gave Ruffa's lime corset a dash of Hollywood glam with Swarovski beads peeking from her low neckline.

STYLE/ p.D5

DIVINE MISS B. Gretchen Barretto slips into a diaphanous chiffon gown with an asymmetric neckline by Inno Sotto. A pair of diamond earrings and a Bulgari necklace make for a strong statement.

FLAVOR of the season Assunta de Rossi, in a strapless lime green gown with a multi-layered stole, is escorted by the once-controversial Hans Montenegro.

PERKY Alessandra de Rossi in an aqua halter is paired with a badly dressed Leandro Litton. Either you ditch the trench coat and wear a shirt or go naked, Leandro!

TAKE THAT, LANDER! Regine Tolentino does a sexy version of Sharon Cuneta's trademark translucent poncho. This time she wears it over a bandeau.

BEAUTY QUEEN MODE. Ruffa Gutierrez wears a lime-green corset with Swarovski crystal accents above the neckline.

MIKE TEST, MIKE TEST. As if the catastrophic cutout isn't enough, Ynez Veneracion pushes fashion logic to the limits with a bizarre set of costume jewelry.

WINNING LOOK. Lorna Tolentino exudes confidence in Paul Cabral's strapless column. Black panels taper the actress' hips and make her look taller.

Old-style Hollywood glamour at the Oscars

T'NT TRENDS & TRENDINGS

Anton San Diego

THE 74TH annual Academy Awards was an eventful night. It had its surprises, like **Jim Broadbent** winning best supporting actor, and **Halle Berry** and **Denzel Washington** winning the lead acting awards. I thought **Sidney Poitier**, **Woody Allen** and **Robert Redford** (hands down the most handsome man in the place) were great. But no one could hold a candle to Cirque de Soleil's performance that made the usually jaded Hollywood types take notice.

In terms of fashion, everyone looked great probably because **Björk** did not show up. It was a return to old-Hollywood glamour. It was a sea of black with a sprinkling of pastels, nothing garish, rather understated. There was the usual designer names like Armani, Versace and Gucci, but most of the top ladies chose to go French this year.

Top standouts were **Nicole Kidman** in Chanel, which she wore with a 24-k Bvlgari jewelry worth $4 million. Also going French were Halle Berry (Elie Saab couture), **Cameron Diaz** (Ungaro with Fred Leighton jewelry worn as a belt), and **Gwyneth Paltrow** (Alexander Mcqueen). **Julia Roberts** wore Armani. I also liked **Kate Winslet** (Ben de Lisi) and **Jennifer Connely** (Balenciaga by Nicholas Ghesquiere).

The biggest disappointment was **Jennifer Lopez**, who looked like a Miss America contestant complete with big hair and all. The dress (Versace) was beautiful but it did not match her styling. Another disappointment was best actress nominee **Renee Zelwegger**. She looked good in her Carolina Herrera dress, but compared to her vintage Jacques Freres canary yellow dress from last year, this year's was a dud.

The best couples that night were **Ryan Philippe** and **Reese Witherspoon** and **John Travolta** (looking slimmer) and the divine **Sharon Stone**. This year's worst dressed was definitely Oscar's host, **Whoopi Goldberg**. I got the costume part in the first half when she was supposed to look like Satine from "Moulin Rouge," but in succeeding scenes she looked like she blended with the velvet curtains or became a character from "Shakespeare in Love."

The best speech was given by Halle Berry. It was emotional, honest and intense. The Oscar's this year was a memorable one, and although I was happy with Channel 9's coverage, some of the repeat commercials were exaggerated. I get the point—I promise to buy Baygon. That insect commercial was annoying after a while!

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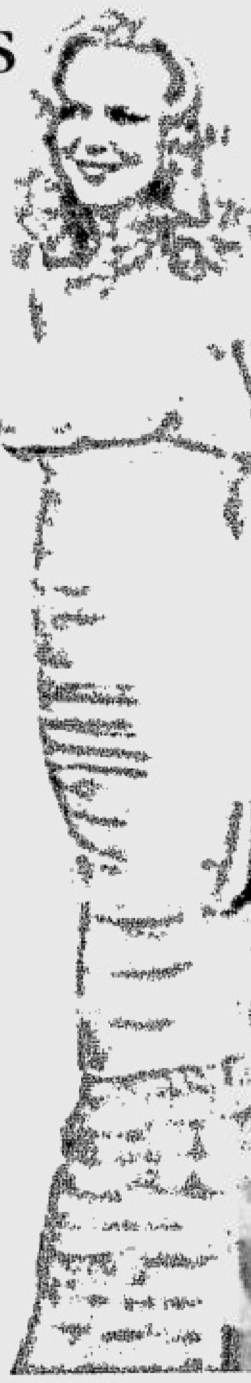
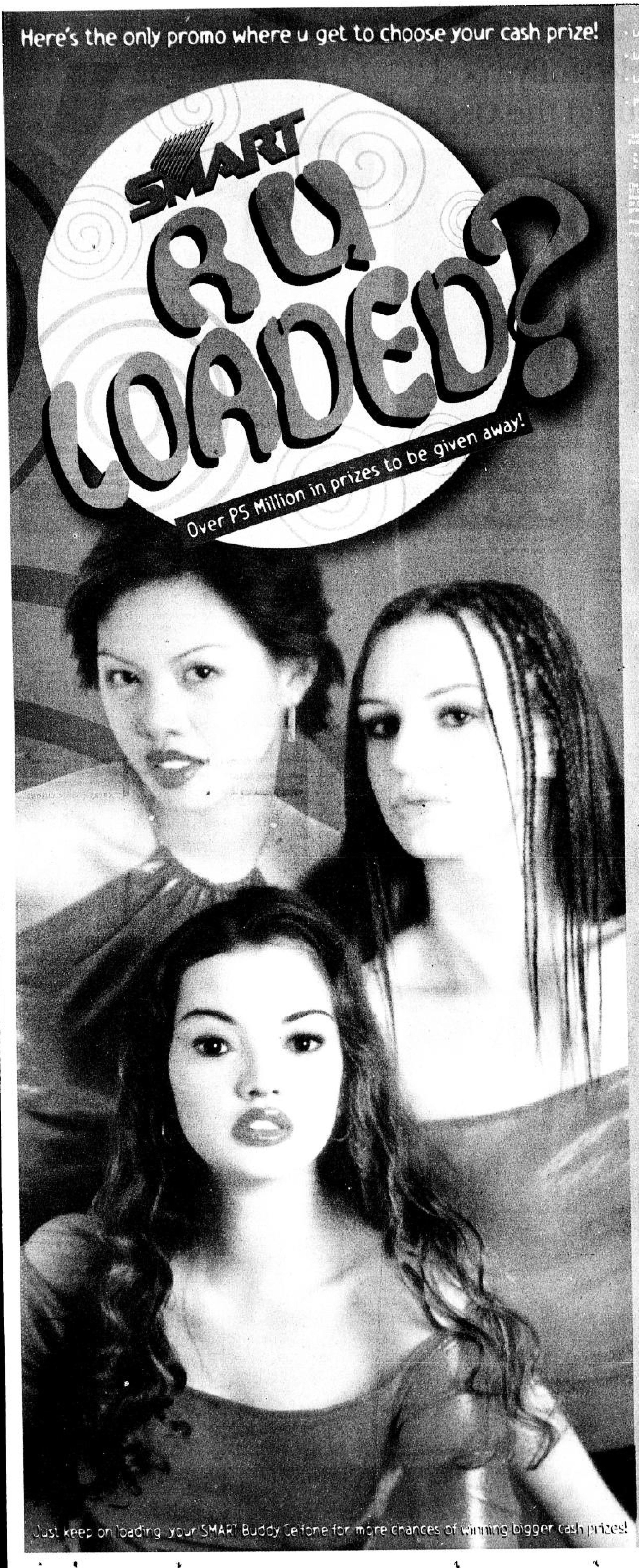
OLD-STYLE/ p.D4

CAMERON DIAZ AND GWYNETH PALTROW. These stylish ladies are wearing Ungaro and Alexandar Mcqueen, respectively.

JULIA Roberts in Armani



AT THE OSCARS. Best-dressed award goes to Nicole Kidman in Chanel and a $4-million Bvlgari necklace.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Old-style Hollywood glamour at the Oscars

From page D2

W. The 7 series is the latest offering from BMW and is considered the biggest, glitziest four-door luxury sedan in the market today. It's computer-controlled everything and has 4.4 liter V-8 rated, and packs a 325 horsepower at 6,100 RPM. It's slightly larger and taller than its rival, the Benz S500.

About a month ago, I, along with other journalists, was invited to the launch of the BMW 7 series in Bangkok. The trip was as great. We were billeted at the Oriental (Top 10 hotel in the world and No. 1 in Asia). Although the lobby was too loud for me, the service, rooms and ambience were incredible. And that was just the beginning.

The evening of our arrival we dined with the BMW representatives from Germany. The next day we went to a resort in Hua Hin, a two-hour drive from Bangkok. We rode the 7 series and we were in a total of 10 cars plus police escort (so that's how the President feels, nice).

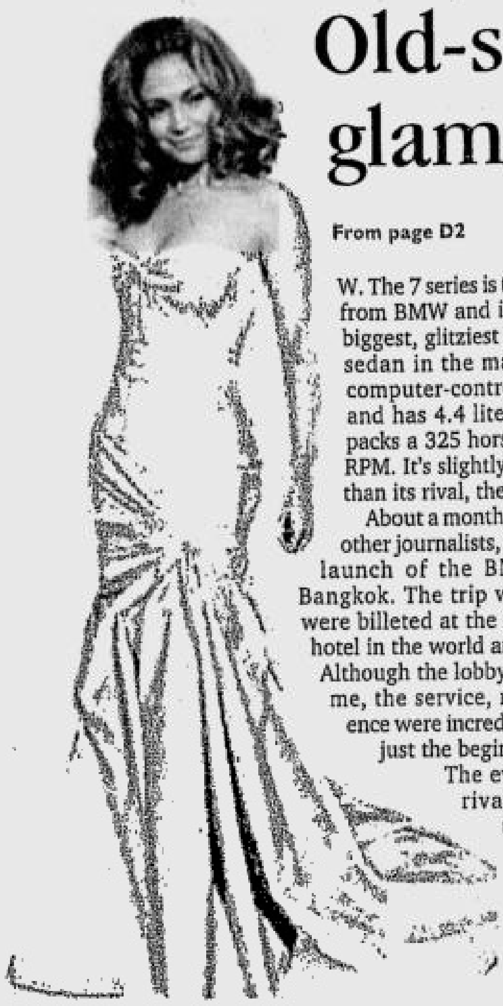
During our trip to the resort we experienced firsthand the comforts and luxury of the car. It was amazing to know the car does not need a key; one just have to press a button for it to start. Other amenities included climate-control seats, so if it's hot outside the seat can be cooled by the built-in air-conditioner.

The ride was the smoothest I had ever been in. I had been to Hua Hin before in a Volvo, but this was incomparable. I love gadgets and the passenger seats adjust 14 ways. I tinkered with it the whole time just to get a comfortable spot. Thank God it was not my car. If someone did that to my 7 series I would hit him in the head.

Some of the car's amenities will take your breath away, such as iDrive multifunction (think: a mouse on a computer. You can select certain functions from navigation system, CD, mobile phone, among others. This function will surely make the Mcgyver types jump with joy); navigation system (can you imagine having this in the nightmarish streets of Manila?); TV monitor; head and side air-bags; climate control;

Power everything (think steering, brakes, locks, mobile phone with built-in speakers for you to hear and talk to, mirrors, locks and windows); automatic parking (if you are on a hill or traffic you don't have to hit the parking brake, it brakes automatically); leather upholstery, cherry wood trim; remote control locks, rain-sensing windshield wipers, headlight washers, automatic parking break, gear shift is on the steering wheel as well as CD/radio volume and channel selector. I don't think you can ask for more. Maybe they can come up next with a car that flies.

E-mail the author at asdworld@hotmail.com



MISS OKLAHOMA? Major disappointment award goes to Jennifer Lopez who gets the dress right, but what's with the hair?

BEST COUPLE OF THE NIGHT. Ryan Philippe and Reese Witherspoon

SHARON Stone, 2002

DOUBLE WIN. Halle Berry not only win best actress but is beautifully dressed in a Elie Saab.

BRIT STANDOUT—Kate Winslet in Ben de Lisi

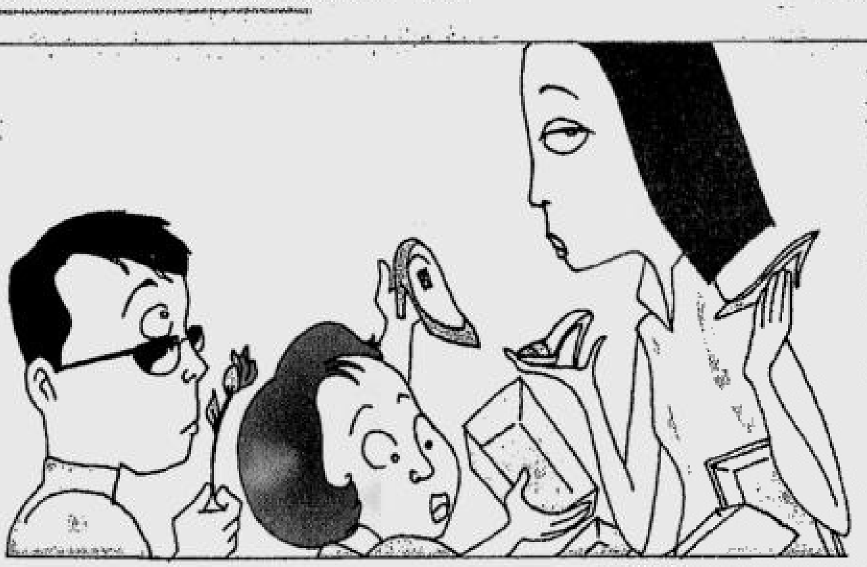


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

The curse of being tall

By Genea Padilla
Contributor

DON'T take me wrong. I love being tall. I love being female and tall. I'm not here to bemoan the drawbacks one encounters from being vertically blessed but to acknowledge that, as with everything else, they do exist.

I've heard it over and over again, mothers wishing their daughters would grow as tall as the supermodels we see on TV and magazines. Hmm... I wonder if they know what they're really asking for.

My kingdom for a pair of shoes

I don't know if it's given more to being female or to being tall or to being Filipino, but I'm shoe-crazy. I love all varieties of footwear: sneakers, slippers, slides, boots and the occasional feet-killers, the sexy stilettos. It's probably due to the feeling of frustration I experienced growing up and still experience every so often from the scarcity of my particular shoe size. So a word to those parents wishing for towering daughters who are likely to have big feet: the cost of keeping them properly shod will cut you off at the knees.

The search for shoes is no casual matter for us tall girls. I can't just drop by some shop any day assuming I'll go home with a pair or two. These things have to be planned in advance, we have to identify the targets, reconnoiter the field and map out a plan of attack. Seriously speaking, when hunting for shoes, my best friend and I always refer to ourselves as "women with a mission."

It's a heartbreaking experience when, after trudging all day through three malls and around 57 shops and at last finding the perfect pair, you're told the biggest size they have is 8. Size 8! Eight is fine, sure. If you lose your toes to frostbite they'll fit just right.

> People are always using you as a tape measure, you're taller than 80 percent of the guys around and, most vexing of all, you can't get the right shoe size

And the list goes on

Like I've said and will probably repeat quite a few times more, I love being tall. Not to rub it in for those who aren't but wished they were, just keeping it straight. If my list of drawbacks ends up longer than the advantages, I'd still be thankful for being tall.

- Never mind that jeans—even the most popular brands—seem to be made for women at least 2 inches shorter, or tall females with extraordinarily longer bodies than legs.
- Forget that when in high school or college or even now, it's zero funny business for you. Some witness will almost surely pick you out from the lineup and say, "It's her, the tall girl! She did it!" If it's inconspicuous or incognito you want, forget it.
- Recognize that some career paths are just closed to you, e.g. ballet dancer and theatre actor—at least in this country—unless you're happy with your chances of landing a lead role in, say, the "Attack of the 50 Ft Woman" or "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs."
- Surrender to the fact that people will automatically assume you play basketball or should date a basketball player.
- Accept that you'll be taller than 80 percent of the males you will meet unless you move to another continent. FYI: Europe, especially Scandinavia, always tops my survey.

How tall is tall?

Having been tall all my life, I forget just how different my view is from most, literally! By Filipino standards, a female standing at 5'6"-5'7" is considered tall, 5'8"-5'9" "model" tall, 5'10"-5'11" jaw-dropping tall, and anything beyond that, too tall for polite comment. (By the way, the international standard for tall women is 5'10" and up.)

When talking girl-talk with friends, I always have to clarify, "How tall is tall? Are we talking your tall or my tall?" In this matter one has to be very careful and clear, you must be on the same page with regard to "tallness"—keep in mind phrases such as "It's all relative" and "It's a matter of perspective"—lest you end up waiting for your "tall" blind date half the night when all the time he's standing right next to you at chin height while you're wearing high heels. Not to say that going home to momma to present your date/boyfriend with your arm around his shoulder is totally unacceptable—whatever melts your butter.

More tall tales

I used to have boy-cut hair and used to be tan-toasted. I malled in casual sporty clothes and every so often wore a cap. In those days, being referred to as "sir"— I guess order takers judge sex by the shadow a customer casts over their counter—or being given a double take upon entering the ladies room were irritating trials.

But I've gotten used to being stared at. Half the time I tell myself they're staring because I'm unbelievably beautiful. That's one of my more effective techniques for enduring such encounters without bloodshed. Depending on the kind of look I get, sometimes I just stare right back. I've gotten quite good at it with my many years of practice that I'm confident I can outstare my opponent.

Another unavoidable thing with being tall, I oftentimes get treated as a walking measuring tape. Rude people usually try to stand right next to me or behind me to see how they measure up, or maybe I should say "down," as compared to, who else, me.

All these things aside, let me just say I know hardly anything is ever easy and, for the last time, I love being tall. I think it was Susan Trott's Holy Man who said that there are two things you cannot change—your height and being bald.

Even if I could, by now you know I wouldn't.

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VIA Veloso, queen of the damned!

WHAT'S with the slippers, er, shoes, Ana Capri?

Style . . .

From page D2

It was a tricky look to pull off. In the hands of a lesser designer, Ruffa could have ended up looking cheap instead of sexy in what looked like beaded brassieres from afar. Like Gretchen, Ruffa couldn't restrain herself from displaying all those jewelry.

Redemption

The De Rossi sisters, Assunta and Alessandra, redeemed themselves this time from the fashion fiasco they had found themselves in during last December's Metro Manila Film Festival Awards night. Rhett Eala draped the two in gowns that paid tribute to the colors of summer. Assunta glided in a strapless lime number with a layered shawl, while Alessandra slipped into an aqua halter that was draped at the back.

In our opinion, however, the two would have looked better had they exchanged gowns. The shapely Assunta would have looked smashing in Alessandra's figure-hugging attire. In contrast, the younger and slimmer Alessandra would have looked her age in her *ate's* less-daring outfit. What's more, the heavy stole would have concealed her skinny figure.

Maricel Soriano favored an Inno Sotto parrot-green column with long sleeves and a scoop neckline. The break in the neckline was accented and held together by several beaded strips. She looked as elegant as ever, but the Diamond Star has to start paying attention to her weight. Inno's magic has its limits.

Boo-boo's

Now the evening's fashion faux pas.

The sleeveless silk chiffon in summery peach and light fuchsia with a thigh-high slit failed to work for Sunshine Dizon. It was a clear case of the wearer not the gown. A slimmer but more bosomy actress would have looked smashing in it. Better luck next time, girl.

The usually fashionable Kuh Ledesma has started to look like a caricature of herself in a silhouette she has worn a thousand times. The Pop Diva looked like a gold-coated candy bar wrapped in a corset. It's time for her to reassess her wardrobe before she turns into another Pilita Corralles. There's a thin line separating an icon from a caricature.

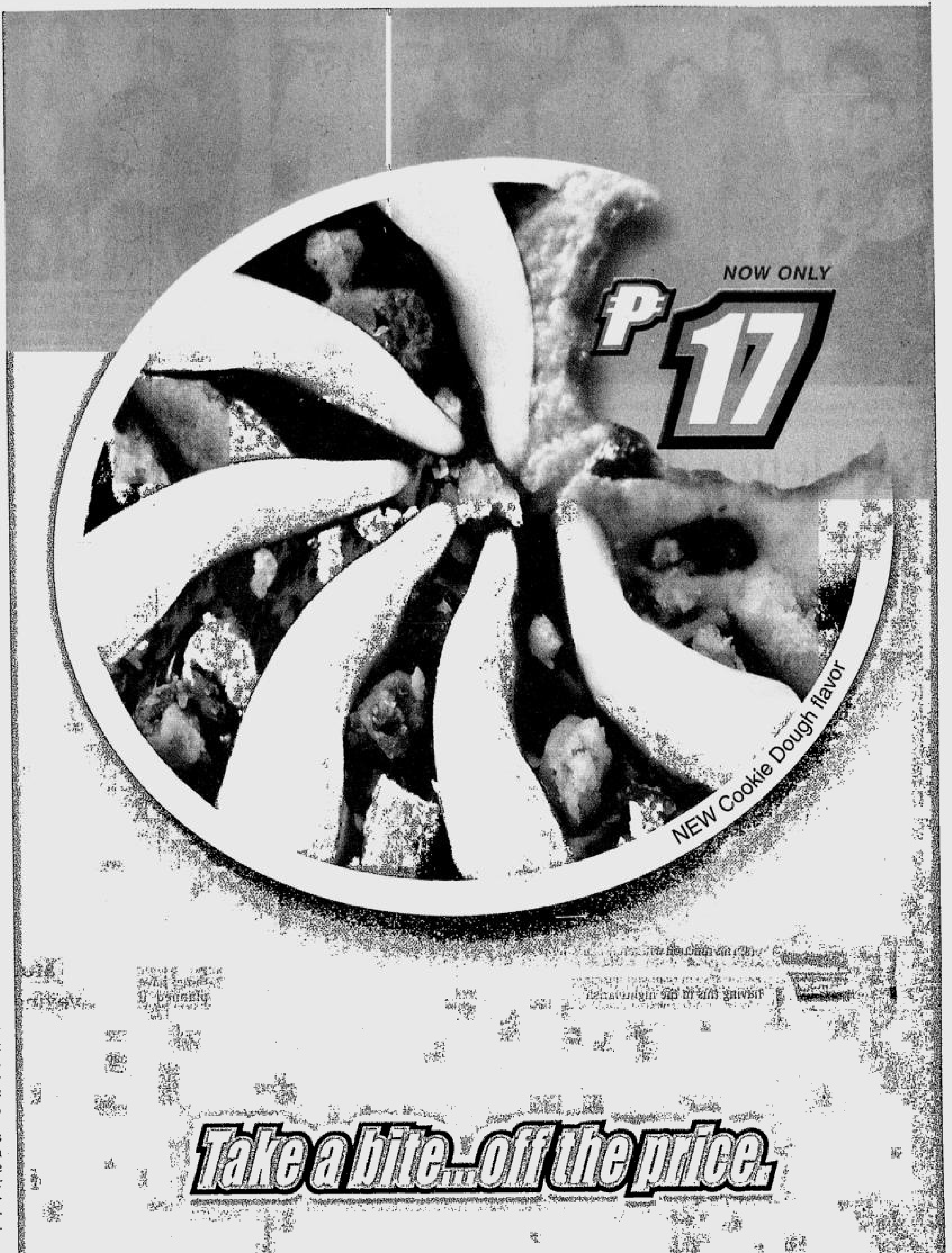
Bold star Ana Capri managed to look decent without being boring, but she should have paid more attention to her feet. The actress looked like she just emerged from the bathroom in a shimmery gown and a pair of Japanese slippers. In contrast, fellow boldie Klaudia Koronel looked like a leafless, lifeless tree trunk in a lacey brown outfit accented with sequins.

And what are we to make of Ynez Veneracion's catastrophic white cutout? Could a gown get any worse than this? As if the busy bodice and bewildering layered skirt weren't enough, a string of fake baubles ringed her neck and cascaded from her hair down to the right side of her face. Harry Winston they were certainly not. More like Janet Jackson's microphone with a touch of baroque.

Oops, wait, do these fashion victims have their own TV shows?

Lighten up, ladies, summer's here.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



Also available in Cookies 'n Cream, Ube Overload & NEW Choco Delirium.

Enchanted Kingdom

APRIL

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

Our calendar of celebrations will keep you in the loop

On April 9, a Tuesday, it's Bataan Day. And to celebrate the occasion, we're giving all senior citizens the red carpet treatment. Simply present your Senior Citizen's I.D. upon entry and get free return tickets plus a chance to be our "Lucky Visitor of the Day." Now that's an April celebration you'd be a fool to miss.

All return tickets are of the same value and are valid until Oct. 31, 2002 only.

RED LETTER DAY

Park Schedule from March 20 to June 23: Wednesdays to Fridays, 2pm to 10pm; Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays, 10am to 10 pm with fireworks display at 9pm. • For inquiries, please call 830-2111 to 17 (Makati), 843-6073 to 78 (Sta. Rosa). Per DTI-Laguna Permit No. 03-081 Series of 2002

FROM LEFT, Andres Muhlach, Manay Gina de Venecia, Nena Vera-Perez, former President Cory Aquino, Manay Gina's sister Ampil carrying Atasha Muhlach, and Speaker Jose de Venecia

Red-letter day for G de V

CIVIC leader Gina de Venecia, wife of the Speaker of the Lower House, hosted a luncheon on her birthday at their Dasmariñas Village home. She glowed in a trendy red number by Paul Cabral.

Among her well-wishers were President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, former President Cory Aquino, Vice President Tito Guingona, Senate President Frank Drilon and wife Mila, Sen. Ralph Recto, Helen Gamboa-Sotto and Rep. Imee Marcos. Socialites Baby Arenas and Elsa Payumo also attended the luncheon.

Relatives came, including Manay Gina's mother, Nene Vera-Perez with grandson Lander Vera-Perez. Sister-in-law Elvie Gonzales arrived with her *apos*, Aaron and Atasha, twin children of daughter Charlene and husband Aga Muhlach.

Don't miss this!

YOU

YOU.inq7.net

Summer Break Party

April 6, 2002 Glorietta Activity Center

Start the day by marveling at the jugglers and acrobats in the circus parade for kids
Find out who survives the E-Mazing race challenge
Update yourselves with the latest fashion trends by Sari-Sari
Dance to the beat of the music of South Border and Rivermaya

Get lots of freebies and get a chance to win TechnoMarine watches!!!

Hurry, log on to **YOU.inq7.net** and get your online INVITES now!

The fun doesn't stop there. Register now for your online invitation and get a chance to win a gift certificate for a one-month membership at the RCBC Plaza's The Spa gym! The lucky raffle winner will be announced on April 6, 2002 at the Glorietta Activity Center.

EASTERN COMPAQ TechnoSport PROFESSIONAL DIVING WATCHES 89.1 WTS FRIDAY'S

SEATED, from left, Margaret Lim-Kwok, Menchu Concepcion, Dr. Elenita Binay, Vilma Valera, Chari Bagatsing, Marietta Santos, Mely Hechanova; standing, from left, Letty Bondan, Nena Del Rosario, Ching Cruz, Agnes Huibonhoa, Conchitina Araneta-Ladao, Nena Casimiro, Jovie Yupangco, Nene Leonor and Susan Laudico

Women achievers feted by peers

THE NEWLY opened Zaap in Rockwell Power Plant, Makati City was the venue for a party that honored two accomplished women—Margaret Lim Kwok and Agnes Huibonhoa.

The special celebration was tendered by Nene Leonor, one of the country's leading hostesses. Zaap is owned and managed by Add Lim, Margaret's sister-in-law.

Guests included former Makati City Mayor Dr. Elenita Binay with daughters Abby, An-An and Nancy; former QC Mayor Mel Mathay and Vilma Valera; Bobby Novenario; Mely Hechanova; Susan Laudico; Ching Cruz; Menchu Concepcion; Marietta Santos; Chari Bagatsing; Millette Tanada-Ocampo; Jovie Yupangco; Jocelyn Calalang; Conchitina Veloso Ladao; Nena Casimiro; Nena del Rosario; Letty Bonoan; PR lady Susan Joven; Maurice Arcache; and Gilbert Perez.

BIRTHDAY celebrant Tina Gonzales with the controversial Bubbles

ERICH Edralin with Mico Valenzuela and Chiqui Torres Tan at ABG's

First quarter's birthday celebrants

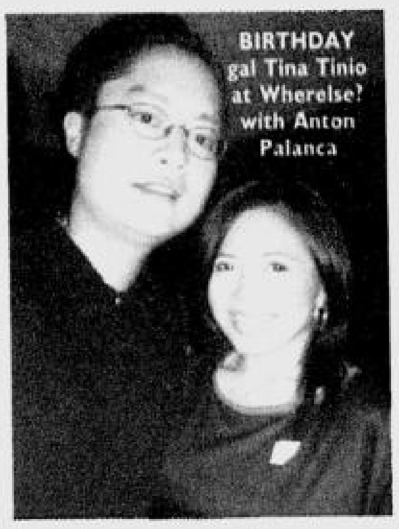
TEESAW

Raul Teebankee

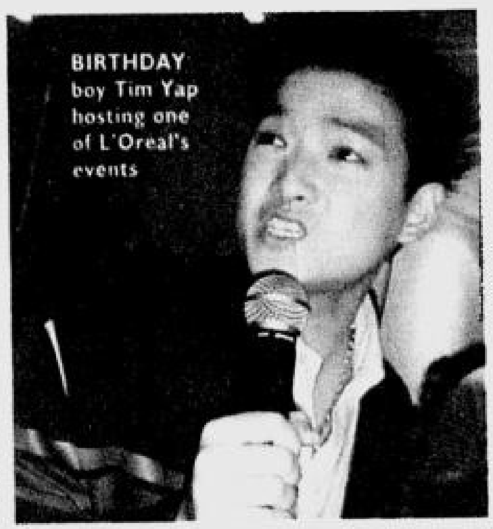
IF **Alou Gonzales**, **Tina Tinio**, **Tina Gonzales**, **Erich Edralin** and **Tim Yap** were to celebrate their birthdays together under one roof, the celebration would definitely "fly through the roof."

Luckily, it wasn't the case and we partied with our first quarter's birthday people at

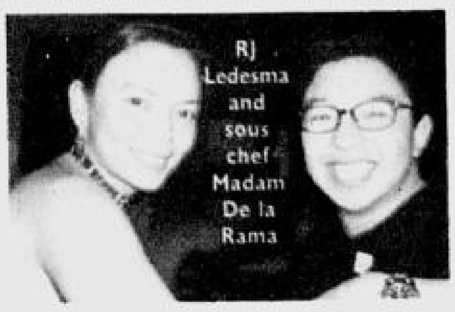
FIRST/ P.D7



BIRTHDAY gal Tina Tinio at Wherelse? with Anton Palanca



BIRTHDAY boy Tim Yap hosting one of L'Oreal's events



RJ Ledesma and sous chef Madam De la Rama

ANTON and Nina Huang

Enchanted Kingdom

MAY

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Put a twist into your holidays.

Come May, it's time for Mother's Day. On the 11th & 12th, all mothers in red who visit with their families get free return tickets, plus a chance to be our "Lucky Visitor of the Day." That's a Mother's Day treat the whole family can enjoy.

All return tickets are of the same value and are valid until Oct. 31, 2002 only.

RED LETTER DAY

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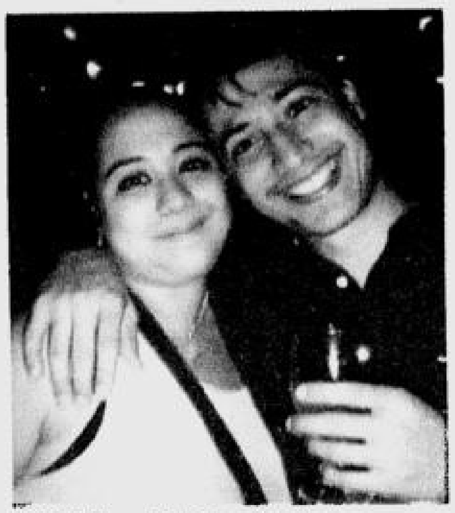
JONJON Rufino



ILLAC Diaz with sister Romina

TAN sisters, Juliet and Mimi

First quarter's

From page D6

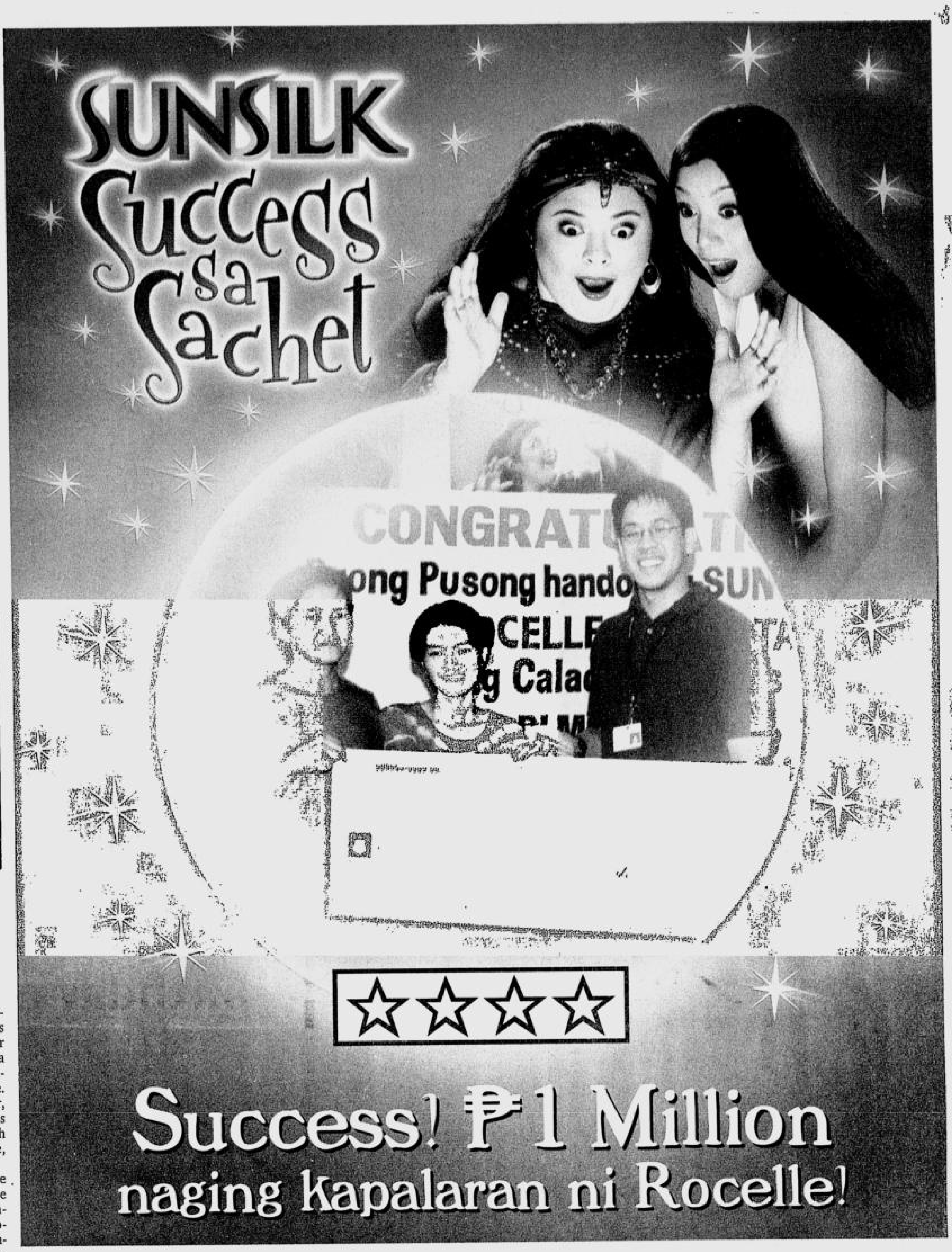
separate celebrations.

Alou, a former Miss Philippines turned actress, celebrated her special day at Conways while communications lady Tina T. spent her special day at Wherelse? Entrepreneur Tina G., who is part-owner of La Dida bar in Malate, marked her natal day at her own venue. Ditto with Erich, choreographer and director, who shared drinks and treats with friends at his place, ABG's.

JAMIE Wilson

Tim, the Lifestyle section's most visible columnist, fashionista and "eventologist," went "Buddhacious" at the Buddha Bar. But I missed this one with regrets. According to those who attended, the Sunday costume party was a smash hit with revelers staying until 3:30 a.m.

KATRINA Tuason and Iñigo Elizalde


SUNSILK
Success sa Sachet
CONGRATU
ong Pusong hando
CELLE
g Cala
☆☆☆☆
Success! ₱1 Million
naging kapalaran ni Rocelle!

Congratulations to

Rocelle Bautista

of Calaca, Batangas

Congrats din sa libu-libong nanalo sa Sunsilk Success sa Sachet! Maraming salamat mula sa Sunsilk!

Naghihintay pa ang success! Pwede pang i-claim ang prizes hanggang May 15, 2002.

Per DOH-BPAD Permit No. 0615, Series of 2001.

SUNSILK
NUTRIENT SHAMPOO
SUNSILK
SUNSILK
SUNSILK

Enchanted Kingdom
JUNE
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

Here's another round of celebrations.

A flood of celebrations await you in June, starting with Independence Day on the 12th. Wear our nation's proud colors - red, white and blue - and get free return tickets plus a chance to be our "Lucky Visitor of the Day." Dads in red get these same privileges on Father's Day weekend on the 15th and 16th. Finally, our Laguna Day celebrations from the 19th to the 23rd give Laguna residents free return tickets and a chance to be our "Lucky Visitor of the Day." That's a whole month of activities that's sure to leave you dizzy with delight.

*On Laguna Day, visitors who avail of the promo must present proof of residence. *All return tickets are of the same value and are valid until Oct. 31, 2002 only.

RED LETTER DAY

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Sweet tooth found or wisdom tooth lost?

Whatever your needs may be — instant rewards on grocery shopping or free dental check-ups — we'll cover it.

Only AIG Credit Cards offers the new and unique Value Grocer that gives AIG Cardholders a free Half Gallon of Nestlé Ice Cream Classic Flavor – redeemable at any Rustan Supermarket – for any single or accumulated supermarket purchase worth P5,000.

Per DTI-NCR Permit # 0942 Series of 2002. Promo until June 30, 2002

We've really got you covered – from free dental treatments that include cleaning, simple tooth extractions and fillings, to free medical benefits like check-ups, x-rays and up to P5,000 hospitalization reimbursements. All these benefits are transferable within your family.

The AIG Gold Card combines ease of application with fast approval and a long list of extras that answers your day-to-day needs. Owning an AIG Credit Card definitely gives you security and the power to live in style.

Get an AIG Gold Card now.
Without a doubt, it's better than cash.

See flyers for details.

- Get an AIG Gold Card Free for the first year and receive a Special Welcome Gift!
Simply use your AIG Gold Card and make a single or accumulated purchase of P3,000 within the first month from date of activation to get your FREE TRAVEL BAG!
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0720 Series of 2002. Promo runs March 06 - June 30, 2002

- 1.6% Installment Rate Promo (for 12 months installment term)
Apply now and readily avail of as low as 1.6% monthly interest rate when you transfer the balance from other credit cards to your AIG Credit Card. Availment of Balance Transfer Promo is subject to the approval of the AIG Credit Card application.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0856 Series of 2002. Promo runs March 06 - July 31, 2002

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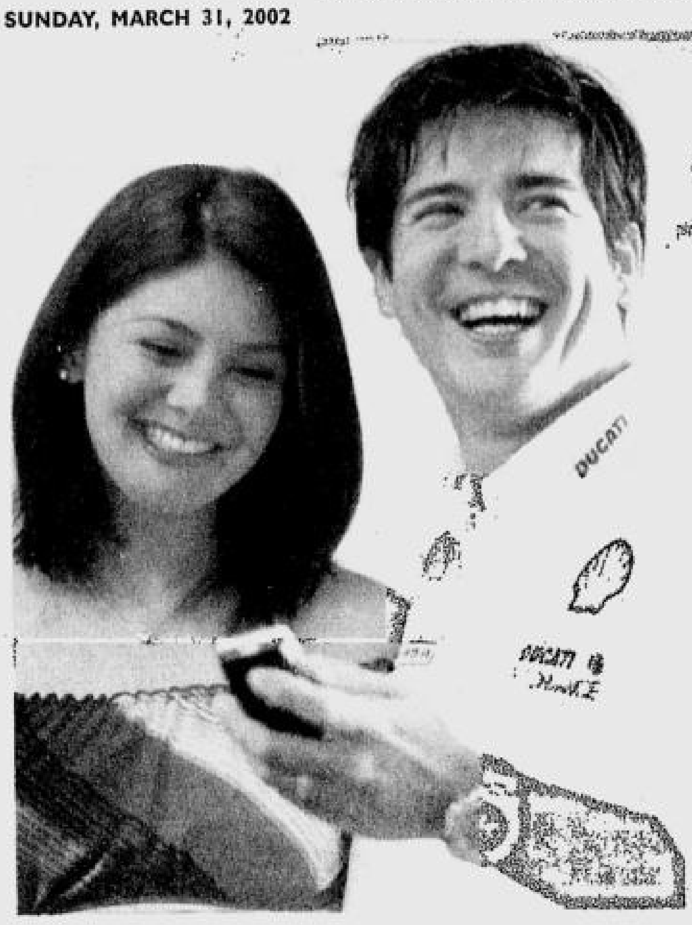

For Aga and Charlene, it's happiness times two

PLAYTIME

By the staff

BEAUTIFUL and blessed best describe couple Aga and Charlene Muhlach. Up close and personal there seems to be nothing show biz about the way they relate to each other, or with the press for that matter. The only thing show biz about them are their heart-stopping, head-turning good looks.

These days they guard their private lives tightly although for this Playtime, they are quite generous in sharing touching and humorous anecdotes about their new roles in life as parents to 4-month-old twins Andres and Atasha.

Over lunch at Oakwood, Aga and Charlene talk about children, family and the importance of keeping in close touch with loved ones. Which is a nice segue to their popular TouchMobile TV commercial.

Aga and Charlene were signed on by Globe during the Christmas season. Globe wanted a natural family, not a make-believe one, because their plan was to market TouchMobile as a family brand. They also wanted the TouchMobile ad to be distinct from their Globe Handyphone ads that focused on texting or SMS. The first caters to the broad sector of society by being affordable and giving people what no other brands have, which is voice messaging.

When Globe looked at consumer surveys, they found out that Aga and Charlene were seen as the model couple. The whole country knew that Aga stopped working to spend time with Charlene during her pregnancy.

Indeed the ads that came out in January showed Aga and Charlene both agog about their babies even though the latter was supposed to be away from home. Judging by this casual interview with the couple, that's all real.

How have you adjusted to family life?

Aga (A): No big adjustment.

With the babies and the new sleeping patterns and all that...

Charlene (C): I think it's different because we got into this marriage knowing what to expect, or at least thinking we knew what to expect. So if there was adjustment, I guess it wasn't that big.

How hands-on are you?

C: With the kids? 100 percent, completely.

Do they sleep with you?

C: Not all the time.

A: *Minsan 'pag mahirap na, 'pag minsan 'di mo na kaya, sasabihin mo sayang naman ang ibinabayad sa yaya, ibibigay mo muna sa yaya.* (Laughter) If we have to wake up early in the morning, if we have work, *'di ba?*

Do you change diapers also like the one in the commercial?

A: Yeah. Not *naman* all the time, *pero* I know how. It's hard because I guess it's different *'pag anak mo.* It's easy, *eh— tanggal, linis, kabit. 'Wag ka lang magpa*panic *'pag umiiyak 'yung bata. Kasi minsan ang* tendency *'pag umiiyak, nara*rattle *ka. 'Pag umiyak,* you let him/her cry and just finish your thing, after that, *tapos na.*

What about bottle-feeding?

A: Yes, it's easy. *Lalo na 'yung pag*-burp, *ang sarap habang tumatagal. Kasi sila ngayon pag pina*-burp *mo sila, 'yung kamay nila medyo nakakapit na sa 'yo so ang sarap ng* feeling. *Parang 'pag gano'n sa 'yo may angkla na.*

In taking care of the babies, what's your favorite chore?

A: *Sa akin* burping. *Gustong-gusto ko pag nandito [sa balikat].*

***Paano 'yun, dalawa sila?* (Laughter)**

A: One at a time.

C: One each.

A: *'Pag minsan'yung isa lang muna 'pag 'yung isa tulog.* Or when she gets tired, *ako muna.* Or *'pag may gagawin ako, siya muna.*

C: They're fed at different times because the boy gets hungry faster than the girl.

A: All the time.

C: Yeah, all the time. And their appetites are different.

Who is the nicer kid, who is the less *perhuwisyo*?

C: Different. They're both actually very nice but the boy will cry when he's hungry, and the girl will cry when she's tired.

What are their names?

C: Atasha and Andres.

AA.

A: Double A. It's Atasha Aaron and Antonio Andres.

When you're out of the house, like in the ad, *talaga bang* you call? How often do you call the house to check?

C: All the time.

So you have to limit your show-biz commitments to attend to your kids, like you are not doing any show right now.

C: Right now, yes.

And you've stopped dancing for now?

C: Yes.

Are you planning to go back?

C: Well, I'll be working, yes. But maybe not as heavy as I did before because I have my kids now. But yes, I'm working.

How about you, Aga, when are you coming up with another *pang*-award performance?

C: (Laughs, teases Aga) *Pang*-award performance...

FOR AGA/ p.E2

SAN MIGUEL great food club living the good life

Make way for the yummiest thing to happen this summer!

kid's kitchen camp
A cooking workshop for children

Yo, Whazzup?!?
A hands-on kitchen survival course especially for kids... boys and girls, aged 8 to 12 years old.

What's to learn in there?
All the fun things like the basics of cooking, baking and how to sink your teeth into those yummy kitchen recipes. Plus cooking terms and how-to's when using kitchen tools.

Cool! Now, how to get in?
Choose from the schedule below. Register early, limited slots available. Just call Rowena or Adette at 671.9876 loc 402 & 405 for more information.

COURSE DATES: Batch 1 April 08, 10 & 12 Batch 3 April 22, 24 & 26
Batch 2 April 15, 17 & 19
TIME 1:00 - 4:00 P.M.
VENUE San Miguel Culinary Center, Eagle cor Legaspi Streets, Bo.Ugong, Pasig City

brought to you by: Cheezee DariCreme
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WEIGH LESS CENTER
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Happy Easter!

RYAN CAYABYAB
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The Performer
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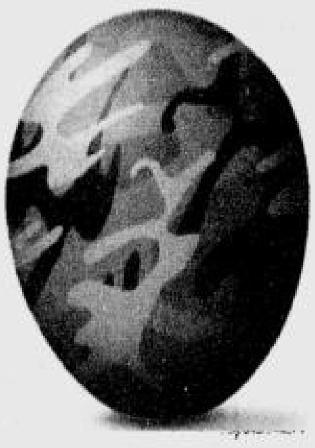

The hunt is on.

The eggs are missing in action. Join the hunt this Easter Sunday, in the "Kiddie Balikatan Egg-cercise" at the Children's Library in Robinson's Galleria, Robinson's Place Novaliches and Imus. Meet the Paddle Pop Lion. Listen to stories and play fun games. Learn how to make Easter eggs and rabbits. For more details, call Jennie at 8925476.

Selecta paddle pop
the CHILDREN's LIBRARY

For Aga and Charlene, it's happiness times two

From page E1

Aga Muhlach: I really wanted *sana hindi* identical [twins]. *Tapos nu'ng sinabi sa akin* fraternal, at least, *hindi sila magkamukha.* (Laughter) *Hindi sila parang* Ping *at* Pong, B1 *at* B2. (Laughter)

We miss you *na*. It has become less exciting without Aga Muhlach. (Laughter) Any projects in the offing?

A: Yeah, starting next week.

What is that?

A: [It's under] Star Cinema with Claudine (Barretto). Rory Quintos is directing. It's not really a feel-good movie. It's a love story *pero* heavy *nang konti.*

Is there a working title already?

A: None yet.

What made you decide to accept a commitment like endorsing TouchMobile? Surely a lot of companies tried to get you to endorse their products. What made you choose a communication company and a new one at that?

A: It's nice that we've been offered this server.

C: If you believe in something, it's easier to endorse. Because sometimes they ask you to endorse certain things, but if it is something that you don't use or that seems you won't be using, it's also hard.

How long did it take for you to say yes to do the ad?

A: Two days? One day?

One day *lang*? (Laughter)

C: We're easy to convince. (Laughs)

***Gano'n kalaki ang* offer? (Laughter)**

C: Easy to convince *lang*. (Laughter) Christmas we were dieting. (Laughter)

Why? For the ad?

C: Yeah, because I just gave birth in November and I had to shoot in December. I was panicking. (Laughter)

A: It's hard *nga bumalik sa* work, *eh*. (Laughs) Every time *na aalis ka ng bahay, 'pag may gagawin ka, lalo na 'pag napako ka sa mga anak mo...*

***Pero* it must be difficult, more challenging to raise twins. *'Yung isa nga lang mahirap na*, what more twins? Were you prepared for that?**

C: Yeah, but actually there was no other basis for comparison. We always say, "How does it feel to have one child?" We can't compare, but it's a lot of fun because when you put one to sleep, the other would be awake so it's constant. Feeling *namin* normal *ang* twins because we don't know how it feels to have one child.

A: I had one *pero 'di ko naman nakasama si* Luigi, *eh*.

Do the twins have separate nannies?

C: Yes.

Mahirap ang isa lang ano?

C: Yeah, 24 hours *talaga*, especially with them.

A: *Lalong tumatagal...* like *'yung* first month with the kids, *iba na 'yung yakap mo sa kanila ngayon. Ngayon 'pag yakap mo, talagang 'di mo na mabitawan. Dati parang masyado silang* fragile *na inaalagaan mo lang sila kasi dapat ganito, dapat gano'n...* it was numbered, technical. *Ngayon parang gusto mong...* [*kagat-kagatin*]. (Laughs)

C: Yes, *nakakagigil.* (Laughter)

Are we going to see the twins in a TouchMobile commercial?

Anna Singson (AS): You're putting me on the spot here. (Laughter) You know, TouchMobile is about family and we respect very much the decision of the mother and the father. It's not for us... I mean, I believe the father and the mother should make the decision of whether the children should come out in the commercial.

So it hasn't been discussed?

AS: No.

It's not part of the contract?

AS: We did not include that in the contract. In fact, some people had said why not. But I believe very firmly that parents should have the key decision in whether a child should join. It's not something we would enforce in the contract.

A: *Galing nga nila, eh.*

AS: That's family, *eh*. We want to espouse family values.

C: Actually, they're very considerate *kasi sa umpisa pa lang*, when they said that we needed babies for the shoot, it was supposed to be the twins, right? But because of the lighting, they chose to just show the different body parts of the babies to insinuate that it was our children. So they were very considerate in doing that.

AS: And your children were what, 2 months old at the time?

A: Yeah.

C: Actually a month and a half.

AS: In fact, some of the respondents in the research, they'd say, "*Ang laki naman pala ng babies.* Two months *lang, malaki na.*" That's because we got older children. It's not good to put very young children—2-month-old children—in front of the camera because of the lighting and aircon.

A: *Ang dami ngang bata sa* set *ano?*

AS: Yeah, there were eight pairs.

C: [There were] 16 babies there.

A: Yeah, *hindi puwedeng mapagod. Doon ko nga nakita 'yung malalaki.* "*Ilang* months *na 'to?*" "Six months." "*Ganyan kalaki? Wow! Ang laki!*" (Laughter)

C: Giant babies. (Laughs)

A: *Ang laki!* (Laughter) *Kasi nasanay ka sa* babies *na maliit 'yung sa amin, tapos nakita ko,* "*Ang lalaki nito.* (Laughter) *Parang nakakagulat. Sabi ko lalaki din pala sila nang gano'n. S'yempre minsan di mo maiisip na 'yun di ba?*

***Lalo na kung mana kay* Charlene?**

A: *Mana sa kanya, mahahaba sila.*

C: Our pediatrician said that the boy would be 6 ft or over.

Who did he take after, the boy?

C: The looks? I don't know... (Laughs) We have pictures. Well, I don't know, it's different, because people say... but I think the boy is more of the Muhlach side, the girl is more of our side... (Shows the pictures)

The boy looks like Aga. *Nag*-Lamaze method *ka ba* and did Aga accompany you to the classes?

C: You know, I wasn't able to do Lamaze because I was caesarian, because they were twins. I wanted to try normal childbirth but the problem was, the week before I went to the hospital, the umbilical cord was close to his neck, so they didn't want to risk it. They said that I had to have a caesarian.

But did you go through classes?

C: No, I wanted to, but my doctor said no more as he knew already it was going to be caesarian. The babies were big. They're quite big now.

So what have you discovered of each other now that you're married with children?

C: I guess, before I got married I basically knew him because we were friends. There was no major shock *na parang* "Oh my God! *Ganito pala s'ya!*" (Laughs) He showed me *naman* his true colors from the beginning. (Laughs)

But now that you're parents, what have you discovered?

C: No drastic changes so far.

How about you, Aga?

A: I just discovered one thing *lang*. *Ang mga babae*, especially mothers, *kawawa talaga sila. Ibig kong sabihin, 'di mo talaga* [*sila*] *lolokohin...*

So now you have more empathy for women...

A: When she was pregnant and I was with her, *nakita ko talaga 'yung hirap niya. Minsan may mga lalaki na nagloloko 'pag* buntis *'yung asawa... Paano mo nagagawa 'yon?* And then when giving birth, *nakita ko, nandoon ako kasi, 'yung 'pag binabali-baliktad na s'yang gano'n, parang* helpless *s'ya; tapos 'pag ini-*injection *na s'ya, wala s'yang magawa. 'Yung mga lalaki nagbubuhat sa kanyang gano'n, kawawa talaga. Tapos pagkapanganak...* then *'yung iba 'pag naghiwalay, 'yung mga lalaki buhay-binata na naman, ang babae, nasa kanya lahat, kawawa. Kahit sa nanay ko sinasabi ko 'yun. 'Yun ang magandang* awakening *sa akin. Pag nag-asawa ka, ayusin mo na talaga.* It's nice to grow old together, *masarap, eh. Wala kang poproblemahin kung 'di ka magloloko, ang sarap ng buhay mo.* Very positive *lahat.*

As long as you do it right...

A: Yeah. We know what's wrong and what's right already. All of us, we know that *naman*. It's just a matter of applying it, *'gano'n lang.*

But it's harder because you're under the scrutiny of the public eyes, you're public property. So how do you manage to keep to yourself?

C: Actually, I don't think we've considered that on a day-to-day basis. We just live our lives with what makes us happy about our family. And we do the normal things. We kind of separate work from personal. It's not like the way we are at home is the way you see us outside. It's not like we're putting up a front to anyone, so we're just being ourselves.

A: *Minsan nga pag nagme*-makeup *s'ya, magsu-shoot s'ya, sasabihin ko* (touches Charlene's face) "*Uy, artista!*" (Laughter)

What are the things you do together as a family even if the kids are still small?

C: As early as one month we already brought them to Baguio. We take them out. They can't do much yet because they're still quite small.

A: *'Yung bahay ngayon gamit na gamit*, like *'yung mga* verandas *na dating parang puro bodega 'yon*, now the house is utilized. *'Yung mga* toys... *medyo may naiiwan nang* toys *doon sa baba, 'yung mga* toys *nakakalat na...* Then eventually, *'pag nagko*-crawl *na 'yan... naglalakad na 'yan...* funny *nga, eh, ang galing!* (Laughs) *Ang sarap lang,* because it's theirs. It's different now. Our thinking every time we talk, nothing's for us anymore. Everything that I do now is for my family. I'm happy.

How about you, Charlene, you're younger than Aga, *nagsawa ka na ba sa buhay pagkadalaga*?

C: Yes, I was turning 27 when I got married. I've had a good life. I've experienced a lot at a young age, responsibilities... life has been so good to me. If I knew it was like this, I would have done it earlier. It's nice *kasi* when you come home, you're not doing things for yourself but for other people as well. And you have a sense of fulfillment, wholeness. When you're single, you come home [and] you have nobody to share things that you do with. Now it's different.

How old are you now?

A: I'm 32.

C: I'm 27.

Between the two of you, who cooks?

A: *Siya.*

C: I like to cook. (Laughs)

What's your specialty?

A: Anything.

C: Different things, like pasta, Filipino food...

A: When you say pasta, *parang* it's so easy, *'di ba?* She cooks anything. *Minsan nga meron pa 'yan kahit ano 'yung nasa* ref, *'yung mga tira-tira doon, pagsasama-samahin niya, kaya n'ya.*

What's your favorite?

A: Oh, I eat [anything]. (Laughter)

C: He has no preferences. [It's] nice to feed him *nga* because he loves to eat.

A: *Mapa may lasa, mapa walang lasa...* (Laughs)

Charlene, how were you able to regain your figure?

A: *O 'di ba?* (Laughter) Tell her that, please.

FOR AGA/ p.E3

PHOTOS: JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

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6:00 p.m. - Exhibitors' Show (Cocktail Grounds)
7:00 p.m. - Fireworks Display (Cocktail Grounds)

April 7
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For Aga and Charlene, it's happiness times two

From page E2

Sinasabi ko nga, "Baby, don't be too hard on yourself."

C: I diet. (Laughs)

Do you go to the gym?

C: Yes, I do.

So there is a conscious effort?

C: Yes.

What is your workout like? What's your program?

C: My program? Wow! There was a time that I would go to the gym, do the Stairmaster or cross trainers for two hours, then I do weights. At night, I'd play badminton.

With Aga?

C: Yeah, so the whole day…

When you say two hours Stairmaster, *dire-diretso*?

C: Yeah. *Kasi* during my pregnancy I gained 55 pounds and I had to lose right away because the TouchMobile was in December. (Laughs) And my diet, I cut out the oil, no salt, no sugar, just plain food, chicken breast, grilled, broiled… But now, I'm starting to take anything. But during that time it was just all that.

Have you tried breast-feeding your babies? *Mahirap ba 'pag dalawa?*

C: I tried for about two weeks.

What happened?

C: I wasn't as lucky as other people, I guess, because I wasn't producing enough milk especially for both. I tried, but my doctor said that the colostrum is the most important milk, so they were able to get it. And like when you see a mother breast-feeding, *parang akala mo* it's so pleasant, but actually it's painful. (Laughs)

You both bring the kids to the pediatrician?

C: Yes.

How do you react when they have to be given shots, injection…?

C: Ah, I can't look. (Laughs)

A: *Ako 'pag may* injection, *hinahawakan ko. Pero alam mo 'yung iyak nila* after? Fast *lang,* 20 seconds *wala na, tapos na. 'Kailangan kasi hahawakan mo, tutulungan mo si* Doc. *Kailangan hawakan mo mabuti kasi kung hindi, mas masasaktan 'yung bata.*

***Lumalabas ka ng* room?**

C: *Hindi ako tumitingin,* I look out the window. (Laughter) I just feel bad for them. But I know it's good for them, so it's okay. (Laughter)

***May earrings na si* Atasha?**

C: Yeah, *meron na siya.* She had her ears pierced I think second or third day…

A: She panics *'pag umiiyak 'yung mga bata. Kunwari buhat n'ya tapos biglang umiyak, kita mo kaagad 'yung* movement *n'ya.* (Laughs)

C: It's different *kasi* there's a certain bond you have with the children. I don't know if it's like that for all mothers, but for me it seems that way.

So you really spend most of your time now with them?

C: Yeah.

For Aga and Charlene, what are the advantages of this voice messaging system? Like, how does it work for you in practical terms?

C: It's easy. It's nice, actually, we've been using it several times, maybe sometimes to make the situation a little bit lighter, like we joke around…

A: *Kasi imbes na magte*-text *ka,* voice, and you get it right away. *Parang 'pag* text, *'pag*-send *sa 'yo ng* text…

Instantaneous *din*?

A: Yeah, *gano'n din.*

C: And the icons are really funny. *Kasi meron din silang mga* "I'm sorry," "I love you,"different things like that…

A: *Nakakatuwa, nakakalibang…*

Have you ever had the chance to use it in an emergency? *Kunwari may sakit 'yung mga bata, tapos tawag kay* Aga…

C: *Ay, wala pa naman* so far…

***Pero 'yung mga* voice icons, *boses n'yo*?**

C: Some are.

A: *Nag*-record *din kami ng mga* sound icons.

C: Like the time when we were in the US and the kids were with my mom. When the kids were crying here, my mom would play the sound icons to the kids and they'd hear our voices and they'd stop crying because they could recognize our voices.

So both of you were in the US?

A: Yes.

C: But one thing that I also really like about that is the voice info, it's really *nakakaaliw.* (Laughs) It's like an information guide where you can check what the latest movies are, travel, weather, even show-biz gossip there is, and even with business…

When do you plan to have kids again? You already have two.

C: Yeah, actually not for a while. Actually, we were just talking about it last night. When I was looking at the babies I said it's nice to

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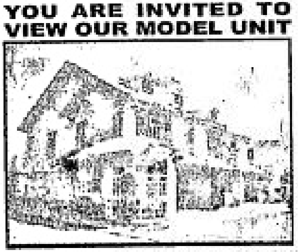

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APRIL SCHEDULE
RECREATIONAL AND ONE-DAY BUSINESS CLASS

April 01, Mon. – COFFEE CAKES. Chef Jun-jun does baking this time with great tasting cakes to have during your coffee break. Let's see him make Sticky Toffee Pudding; Orange and Currant Slice; Zucchini Loaf; Mango-Peach Cake; Carrot Cake Surprise and Espresso Glazed Coffee Cake for P1,200.00 from 10:00 – 4:00 including all ingredients.

April 02, Tues. - BAKED PASTA. Chef Jill will teach some of her favorite baked pasta for P1,200.00 from 10:00 to 4:00 p.m. Recipes include Classic Lasagna, Manicotti, Chicken Mushroom and Ham Casserole, Penne with Seafood and Asparagus and Baked Macaroni.

April 04, Thurs. – THAI KAKANIN. Chef Chariya will teach us her favorite Thai native delicacies. Recipes are Glutinous Rice with Ripe Mango, Squash Cake, Chewy Pandan Strings, Ruam mit or Thai Halo-halo and Jelly Mold with Buko for P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

April 05, Fri. – THAI HOME COOKING. New Bangkok recipes from Chef Chariya for us to learn like Chicken with Spicy Shrimp Paste, Shrimp with Wansoy Sauce, Lapu-lapu with Chili Tamarind, Hard-Boiled Egg with Shiitake and Liempo and Spicy Kangkong for P1,200.00 including all the ingredients from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

April 06, Sat. - THAI BARBECUE. Different kinds of genuine Thai Barbecue with sauces and side dish from Chef Chariya like Chicken Barbecue, Grilled Catfish, Grilled Pork Belly, Grilled Pork Spareribs, 5 Kinds of Sauces and Papaya Salad for P1,200.00 including all the ingredients from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

April 08, Mon. – FAVORITE BREADS I. Crescent Rolls, Potato Bread, Honey Raisin Bread, Fried Bread, Dinner Rolls and Chorizo Bread from the recipe files of Chef Jill Sandique. Recipes include all ingredients from 10:00 – 4:00 p.m for P1,200.00.

April 09, Tues. – EASY CATERING DISHES. Chef Jun-jun De Guzman will help you run an in-house catering and food take-out business. He will discuss menu planning, costing, food portioning, preparation, presentation and others. Dishes to be demonstrated are as follows: Chorizo and Mushroom Platter, Assorted Green Salad with Homemade Ranch Dressing and Pesto Vinaigrette, Eggplant Moussaka, Chicken Imperial, Royal Lapu-lapu and White Chocolate Tiramisu. Recipes include all ingredients for P1,500.00 from 10:00 – 4:00 p.m.

April 10, Wed. – SIMPLE AND CLASSIC CAKES. Recipes from Chef Jill Sandique like Classic Pound Cake, Yellow Butter Cake, Lime Pound Cake, Spiced Rum Butter Cake, Marble Pound Loaf and Pineapple Upside-Down Cake for P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 – 4:00 p.m.

April 11, Thurs. – HEARTY AMERICAN COOKING. Recipes from Chef Gene Gonzalez like New England Clam Chowder, Beef Ribs, Beer and Banana Battered Shrimp with 2 kinds of sauces, Salmon Burgers, Southern Fried Chicken, Horseradish Mashed Potatoes for P1,500.00 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

April 12, Fri. – LIGHT AND LUSCIOUS DESSERTS. Trifle, Reduced Sugar Apple Pie, Carrot Muffins, Banana Muffins, Blueberry Cheesecake and Chocolate Mousse are the recipes from Chef Jill Sandique. All recipes include ingredients from 10:00 – 4:00 p.m. for P1,200.00.

April 13, Sat. – KIDS CAN BAKE! Chefs Gino and Tricia will teach you kids simple and easy to do recipes that you can bake for your Mom and Dad. Recipes include Mocha Mud Pie, Chocolate Chip Cookies, Sugar Cookies, Chocolate Chip Pancake, Cheesecake and Triple Chocolate Brownies. P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 – 3:00 p.m.

April 16, Tues. – OLD FASHIONED DELIGHTS. Engaños Bobos, Chocolate Fudge Cake, Mamon, Ensaimada, Cinnamon Rolls and Strawberry Cheesecake are the recipes that Chef Jill Sandique will teach us. Recipes include all ingredients for P1,200.00 from 10:00 – 4:00 p.m.

April 17(Wed), 18(Thurs.), 19(Fri.) & 20(Fri.) – THE YOUNG CAN COOK SERIES. Let Chef Gino and Chef Tricia teach you kids some of their favorite kiddie recipes like Macaroni Salad, Chicken ala King, Japanese Salad, Rocky Road, Mini Pizza, Rice Crispy Bars and Tacos are some of the recipes. So kids from 5 to 12 years old make your summer exciting by enrolling in this 4-day class. P1,500.00 per day from 10:00 – 4:00 p.m.

April 20, Sat. – GOURMET SANDWICHES 2. Let's do another set of great tasting and flavorful sandwiches made by Caffe Agogo's Junjun de Guzman. All fillings will be made in class: Tuna and Cheddar Delight, Grilled Vegetable Foccacia, Aristocratic Club, Pastrami on rye, Mango Emmenthal Panino, Cheese Steak Sandwich and Italian Burger Pandenini for P1,500.00 from 10:00 – 4:00 p.m. including all ingredients:

April 22, Mon. - ITALIAN STYLE SANDWICHES: BRUSCHETTA, CROSTINI AND PANINI. There is more to Italy than pasta and pizza. Chef Junjun will teach us the following snack and meal items. Herbed Chicken Panino, Grilled Fontina, Mascarpone and Strawberry Bruschetta, Fritata Panino, Savory Mushroom Crostini, Marinated Peppers and Anchovy Bruschetta, Panino Grosso and Roasted Eggplant Crostini. For P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 – 4:00 p.m.

April 23, Tues. – BAKESHOP SPECIALTIES 3. Strawberry Cake, Dark Chocolate Mousse, Chocolate Chip Cookies, White Chocolate Cheesecake, Banana Bread and Rugelach from Chef Jill Sandique for P1,200.00 including all ingredients. 10:00 – 4:00 p.m.

April 24, Wed. – PAELLAS & RISOTTOS 3. Bringhe, Arroz con Pollo with Black Beans, Paella Bacalao, Gene's Barley Paella, Prawn and Wild Rice Risotto and Arroz ala Bruta (Dirty Rice from Ibiza) from Chef Gene Gonzalez for P1,200.00. Recipes include all ingredients from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

April 25, Thurs. – SPREADS AND SMEARS. Lets introduce our palate with mixes made for spreading bread and crackers. With Chef Junjun's presentation, it will definitely be irresistible. He will do Peregrino's Chicken Liver Pate, Mortadella and Cornichon Spread, Tuna Dill Smear, Gene's Crabfat Tapenade, Quesong Puti Pamahid, Walnut and Pecorino Smear, Brandade de Laura for P1,500.00 from 10:00 – 4:00 p.m.

April 27, Sat. – MODERN AND EASY PASTA SAUCES 2. The Sequel to Chef Junjun's class —– now he will do simple sauces made with extraordinary ingredients – definitely a palate enhancer. Let's see him demonstrate: Chicken and Chorizo Lasagna, Fettuccine with Walnut Pesto, Oga's Pasta Salad, Melon Linguine, Spaghetti with Black Truffles and Ziti with Beef Short Ribs for P1,500.00 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

April 29, Mon. – THE GOOD EARTH CHEF'S SAMPLER 2. Chef Henry will teach us again new Hongkong style recipes that you will surely enjoy. Recipes include all ingredients from 10:00 – 4:00 p.m. for P1,500.00

April 30, Tues. – TAPAS: SPANISH BAR FAVORITES 4. Here's our new addition to this popular Spanish appetizer series. Perfect for get-together with wine, beer and your bar favorites from Chef Gene Gonzalez. Recipes include Pastel de Carne y Pimientos Murcianos (Veal and Green Pepper Turnovers of Murcia), Bunuelos de Chorizo con Quezo (Chorizo and Cheese Puffs), Bunuelos de Bacalao (Salt Cod Fritters), Bacalao de Granada, Tortillitas con Camarones y Cebollitas (Shrimp and Green Onion Pancake) and Salamarejo with a bonus of Fried Olives for P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

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For Aga and Charlene, it's happiness times two

From page E3

have them when they're small, so maybe when they're about 10 or 12 years old.

Gano'n katagal?

C: Yeah, I mean, we already have two, that's enough. (Laughter) Actually, I'm complete. I could really stop there because we have a boy and a girl.

It's like a fairy tale.

C: Yes, you know, it's funny. Not in my wildest dreams did I think I was gonna have twins.

So when did you know that you were having twins?

C: I found out when, I think, I was 3½ months...

So you didn't know their genders yet?

C: No, we didn't know. And the doctors said it might be fraternal, so they didn't know what it was going to be until the last minute. I found out their sex maybe about five to six months?

A: Yes.

Are there twins in your family or Aga's family?

C: Fraternal twins is not necessarily hereditary. Identical, yes, but we have no twins in the family.

A: When she first told me, *pinakita n'ya 'yung sa* ultrasound. *Sabi n'ya, "Wala kang napansin?" "Wala."* "That's our baby." "Yeah, I know, I know." "There's another one..." (Laughter) *Ang* reaction *ko....*

***Para kang nasagasaan ng tren?* (Laughter)**

A: "*Dalawa?* How did that happen?"

***Imbes na* one movie a year, *dalawa gagawin mo.* (Laughter)**

C: *Apat!* (Laughter)

A: I was thinking identical? *Eh, di magkamukhang-magkamukha? Sabi ko, "Paano 'yun?"* Ang dami *kong naisip kaagad.* It took me one hour *bago ko na*-absorb. I really wanted *sana hindi* identical.

Did you call your parents and ask them, "*May lahi ba tayong kambal?*"?

A: No. *Tapos nu'ng sinabi sa akin* fraternal, at least, *hindi sila magkamukha.* (Laughter) *Hindi sila parang* Ping *at* Pong, B1 *at* B2. (Laughter)

Do they get sick at the same time?

A: No, identical *'yon.*

Has it happened to the babies yet?

A: No.

C: Different, even with the milk. Maybe one will be allergic to this, one will be allergic to the cream or powder while the other one is not, different...

They have different formulas?

C: Different formulas, different creams, different feeding times, sleeping times...

Same vitamins? (Laughs)

C: Yeah, same vitamins, unless maybe they develop an allergy for that. (Laughs)

How nice that both of you go with the kids to the pedia. The first year, you're supposed to take them every month, right?

C: We take them every month.

A: *Pero minsan meron din s'yang punta na wala rin ako.*

C: Yeah, [there was] one time.

When she was pregnant, did you also go with her to the OB-Gyne?

A: Yeah, twice a month *'yon.*

C: And then my last month every week *na*, so he was with me the whole time.

A: *'Yung* experience *ang saya, ang sarap. Sabi ko nga sa kanya kung ako'ng buntis, ang sarap dahil bakasyon na bakasyon ako no'n. Talagang sa bahay lang ako.* (Laughs)

You really made that decision not to accept major commitments?

A: Yeah, because *sa buong buhay ko, ito 'yung pinangarap ko* and *nandyan na,* so I'll take advantage of it, *'di ako nag*-shooting last year.

But you did TV commercials?

A: Yeah.

Do you have business investments?

A: Yeah, *pero konti lang.* (Laughter)

Did you have any inputs in the current ad?

A: *'Sakto, eh.*

C: That's what they presented to us. As a matter of fact, when they presented us the storyboard, it was with our pictures there. (Laughs) Super-imposed already. (Laughs)

How long did it take to shoot that ad?

C: Two days *lang.*

How far were you physically when you were doing the scenes? Or drama *lang 'yon?*

C: It was far, I was in Batangas. (Laughs)

And he was in...

C: Alabang! Unfair *'no?* (Laughter) And then I just gave birth *pa.* (Laughter)

They overhauled the concept that the woman is outside the house?

C: I said, "Wow! You guys went so far for these trees!" (Laughs)

What part of Batangas is this?

A: *Lampas* Lipa *pa.*

C: *Lampas pa.* It was really in, like, a rice field, small town...

What's the reason for making the mother the one working?

AS: We did some research and, you know, the story of the mother staying home is trite and pretty predictable. We wanted something with a twist. I mean, how often do you see a father changing the nappies of the kid? And that's the modern father. He has to know how to do those things nowadays.

Charlene Gonzales: Feeling *namin* normal *ang* twins because we don't know how it feels to have one child

C: Yeah, a lot of women now are career-oriented.

A: *May kulang nga, eh, dapat* (mimics the commercial) "Hello! *Alam mo bukas ikaw na dito sa bahay. Ako na lang ang aalis.*" (Laughter) "*Kasi tawag ka nang tawag. Parang 'di ka din umalis.*"

***"Pabayaan mo naman ako dumiskarte."* (Laughter)**

A: *Oo.* (Laughs) *Kasi tuwing magsasabi s'ya, "Tapos na." "Eh, 'yung ganyan?" "Tapos na. Lahat tapos na."* (Laughs)

Do you plan to go back to TV, dancing?

C: Eventually, yes.

How about acting?

C: Well, I think... (Laughs) *Sa commercials, medyo nag-a-acting ka na rin, eh.* (Laughs)

How about a movie together? There are offers, I'm sure.

C: We had one when I was pregnant but it's really hard to shoot, you know, when you are pregnant. I was seven months at the time. I didn't want to work while I was pregnant.

You don't like the idea of doing a movie together?

A: A movie together? *Sa akin parang... tama na 'yun...* if she wants to work, she'll

FOR AGA/ p.E7

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Kids say—and do—the darndest things

By Cynthia O. Valdes
Contributor

WEARING funny hats, the Valdes family sits for a Christmas photo. That's Grandma Cindy sitting by the lamp.

AS A YOUNG mother, it frustrated me no end that my husband hardly talked to our children (except, perhaps, for "please pass the cereal"). When I pressed harder, citing this and that parenting "expert" who said mothers and fathers should talk to their offspring, my husband invariably responded with "How can you converse with children?"

It wasn't that he was insensitive. He just simply didn't see how an adult could "hold a conversation" with a kid.

Once, as if to drive home a point, he clipped a "Hi and Lois" cartoon wherein Lois, the mother, complained that her husband Hi didn't talk enough to his kids. The next panel showed Hi sitting his 5- or 6-year-old on his lap and telling him, "You get more value for your money getting a quarter pound of glue (or something) in a can than if you bought it by the tube…"

Now "older and wiser," I've come to accept that by nature most men just don't or can't communicate very well with very young kids. Unless, of course, you were Bill Cosby and paid to do it on a TV show about "kids saying the darndest things."

My husband only started to enjoy his children's company when they were practically teenagers and they could do sports activities together, which, come to think of it, didn't require much in the way of conversation.

Now that he's a grandpa, my husband still does not know how to talk to his grandchildren. Andy, at 5, was riding my stationary bicycle when his grandpa joked that his "birdie" was in danger of getting "caught" on the teeter-tottering seat. Andy said, "It's not (at all) funny."

I had one child after another (four of them in a space of five years before I was 29 years old) and was too stressed to really enjoy my kids. Now that I'm a grandma, I'm just finding out how much fun and what a learning experience being with children can be.

Every Friday afternoon, after school, I take out Martin, 6, and Kiko, 7. Power Books at Alabang is a favorite hangout. They lie down on the carpeted floor and get to read any book of their choice. Sometimes, I want to test their reading skills. Holding a book with one hand with the leaves folded back, I try to point out the words with the other hand. Martin chides, "You shouldn't do that! (mishandle the book, that is). We haven't even bought it yet!"

Grandmas sometimes have the energy and imagination that parents don't have

Museum visit

At the National Museum I brought Tyrone (then age 5) and Annika (then age 3) to the San Diego exhibit. Trying my best to recount in young children's terms (I thought) the battle between the Dutch and the Spaniards, Tyrone wanted to know (quick, Grandma), "Who are the bad guys?" Sigh.

"Well, son, it really depends on where you're coming from. You see, the Spaniards were really looking for the Moluccas, the sources of spices, which were a very important commodity in an age before refrigeration, but stumbled on the Philippines instead. They did say they came to spread Christianity, too. The San Diego was a trading vessel hastily converted into a warship in order to drive off the Dutch intruders at the mouth of Manila Bay, which was then Spanish-held territory.

"To make a long story short, after a fierce battle, the San Diego sank 'like a stone' (according to historical records) near Fortune Island in Laguna de Bay. What we are now viewing are artifacts retrieved from the sunken vessel by the National Museum's marine archaeologists."

After all that, in the end what Annika wanted to know was why the plates "were broken."

Loyal

Besides the outings, there was a lot of jostling between grandchildren and naughty grandma. Triana, age 3, said her dad was handsome and her mommy pretty. Her Mamma (which is her maternal grandmother), upon my prodding, was pretty, too. "Isn't she fat?" I asked. She tried to recall, then, a hesitant moment later, her "Noooo" was accompanied by an emphatic shake of the head.

Aren't kids incredibly loyal? When he was little, I used to ask Rafa, "Who do you love more, Lola Charito (his maternal grandma) or Lola Cindy?" "Both" he would answer every time.

Kiko, now nearing 8, once asked, "Why are we always learning, Lola Cindy?" Yes, it does appear sometimes that Lola Cindy is always trying to teach something, or trying to "test" the kids. Harry, age 1, when told that Lola Cindy was on the phone, immediately raised his hands to both sides of his head to "perform" a "*calabasita*," which his grandma had taught him.

Tyrone's parents are sort of worried why at 6 he's not reading yet. Lola Cindy has found out that he does know very well the sounds of letters. He can read two consonants with a vowel in the middle. The problem is, being in a hurry (like his ever-busy Mom and Dad?), he does not syllabicate when reading a long word.

"Rabbit" is likely to become "robot" and "fin," "flipper." "Why?" It just sounds more exciting. He sort of wants to "speed-read" but is not quite ready for it. Grandmas are there to bring them back to earth when they're "lost in space," kind of.

When asked to give examples of words that begin with letters of the alphabet, he said "Eden" for letter "e." "Will Adam and Eve go to hell for disobeying God?" he seriously wanted to know. And about that the woodcutter who cut down the tree? "He's bad." Well, son, sometimes you need to cut a tree. See this table? This chair we're sitting on? But you must plant another one to replace it.

Fountain of youth

Andy, 11, is happy about Lola Cindy's efforts to teach him Filipino. After every tutorial session, he always asks, "Did I give you a hard time?" "No, Andy," I am swift to reassure him. "Well, maybe just a little, but then, I love you." And that makes everything easy.

When I ask him if he's having any problems in school, he is quick to respond, "No, 'cause you're always there to help me." "Cindy, I'm glad you're my *lola*." That's the kind of banter that goes on in our house and it keeps Cindy "forever young."

I gather my family (husband, three sons and their spouses, one special daughter and eight grandchildren) for little Sunday dinners at home. We have pasta, cheese and salad. Rafa, now 15, expertly cooks the raclette together with the hotdogs and lamb chops on the cast iron cooker which we place right on the table. He does not really want to be a chef but is interested to learn how to cook all kinds of pasta:

Jakarta

In Jakarta, I stayed with Rafa (then age 10) and Andy (then age 6) for a year to help them with schoolwork (their parents had separated and during this period, their mother had gone back to Manila with their 2-year-old brother). Initially, we tried to hire a teacher-housekeeper. But do you know how much that costs? Grandmas are cheaper and infinitely more dedicated, you bet.

During the worst times, it kind of made the kids feel better to heap abuse on someone (I'm sure a good psychologist will be able to explain this phenomenon), and I was handy. They constantly whined, "What can we do?" I had to think up activities to distract them.

Mostly, we swam (water play is great for release of tension.) Sometimes, we covered the bunk beds with blankets and made believe it was a tent. Or we drew flags of all nations and tried to identify them. But it was amazing how quickly they got bored.

I allowed them to call me names: "Fa' (t) Lady" was a favorite one. And, of course, I let them irreverently address me by my first name, "Cindy," which they spelled with an "S" on the many little notes they sent my way. Sometimes the notes were sweet, sometimes, they gave vent to angry feelings.

Running away

One day, the children announced they were going to run away. Their mother was "gone" and their father (who happened to be in Singapore on a business trip) didn't care about them. Not knowing how to handle this "novel" situation, I thought it best to just follow my instincts.

They both looked determined. So I told them to go get their bags, bring along two shirts, two pairs of pants, briefs, extra socks, a towel, and not to forget their flashlight and toothbrushes. Oh, yes, we should also bring some snacks in case we got hungry. "Would you like to bring the Monopoly, Backgammon and chess sets, too, just in case?"

Lugging along a couple of pillows and my comforter, we crossed the street and walked a few steps to the Clubhouse. I decided we would "run away" to the Clubhouse.

I settled in nicely, comforted by my pillows as I called once again to the good angels to come down from heaven and succor me. In no time at all, my kids were playing board games with the guards on duty for the night.

It was a Friday but shortly after midnight, I thought it was time to call it off. I ordered the kids (with ardor dissipated) back to the house.

Rafa was willing, but Andy, the more obstinate one, was not yet ready to give up the idea and decided to challenge me by disappearing. I had to go out in the rain with an umbrella to look for him. It was dark and I was getting worried, "Please, God, don't let him fall in the pool…"

Finally pressing the panic button, I dialed their father's number. His cell phone was "unattended." I told myself not to be silly, the child couldn't have gone far because he didn't get past the guards at the gate.

Sure enough, with Rafa's help, I found him. There he was rolled up like a ball, behind the jeep in the garage. By that time, we were all dead tired. I gave the tearful, frightened boy a reassuring hug and brought him to bed.

When I was telling the story during a session with a child guidance counselor at Montessori where "my kids" now study, suggesting it as one way to cope with kids wanting to "run away," the counselor agreed that that was fine, if "one had the energy to do it."

She's quite right, in a way. (Some) grandmas, especially loving ones, do have lots more energy than stressed out and inexperienced young mothers.

The Buzz in Manila

By James Perez Ong
Contributor

The hosts of Disney Channel-Asia's flagship show were in Manila recently and proved by the deluge of kids that met them that they are celebrities in their own right

THE EVENT didn't start until 4 p.m., but by the time it ended two hours later, the Activity Center of Alabang Town Center (ATC) was filled to the brim with kids of all shapes and sizes—plus teenagers and parents turned paparazzi.

The crowd was worked up, the kids were excited and there was at least one call from the organizers for the parents of a missing child.

The occasion? "Disney Buzz" in Manila; on hand were its three presenters, who flew in from the Disney Channel-Asia (DCA) studios in Malaysia: Jien, Azura and Karen. No last names needed, they're celebrities in their own right, like Mickey, Buzz and Mulan.

A few hours before they took to the stage to tape a mock episode of the "Disney Buzz" (parts of which were later aired), the two girls, especially Azura, were feeling under the weather while having their hair and makeup done.

The trio had been in Manila for a week, going out every day to shoot segments for the show. Why the Philippines? Because, according to Manny Tonogbanua, DCA senior marketing manager, the country has the second highest number of Disney viewers, next to Malaysia. And as soon as SkyCable starts carrying the television channel as well, the Philippines is expected to assume the No. 1 slot.

"Disney Buzz" is DCA's flagship show and it airs Fridays to Sundays starting at 5 p.m. A selection of animated and live action series is shown exclusively within the three-hour block, such as "Lizzie McGuire" and "The Legend of Tarzan."

But what has proven more popular are the gags and other fun segments the three hosts come up with in between the series. Just how popular have these segments become? That day in ATC, the hosts were inundated with kid-volunteers who wanted to participate in "Get Spotted," where kids were asked, at random, to voice their opinions; Booster Pants, where contestants tried to shoot as many stuffed toys into a large pair of pants; and Court Buzz, where two groups fought for a case in the sala of Judge J IV, the alter-ego of Jien.

JIEN, Azura and Karen, hosts of the "Disney Buzz"

At ATC, it was vanilla vs. chocolate, and proponents of vanilla lost the case. In his statement, Judge J IV declared his personal preference for chocolate and blamed the vanilla group for "giving us Vanilla Ice," the rap singer.

But if anyone had more fun than the kids, it was the three hosts. The secret behind their chemistry? "Lots of fighting," joked Jien.

Disney kids

All three grew up on Disney TV and movies—and age has not kept them from still enjoying them. Jien is 29; Azura, 21; and Karen, 27. "That wonderful feeling that you get when you watch a Disney movie, it's still there," said Karen. "Maybe it goes away, but you remember it again when you watch something like it."

Karen has been with "Disney Buzz" for a year and is the newest member of the trio. She is the quietest among them, and she says she has received fan letters about that, but give her some time as she is still "camera-shy."

Her parents are Filipino and she grew up in California. She has been in the Philippines for several years now. Before joining "Disney," she did commercial modeling and hosted a 30-minute TV show on Channel 7 called "Campus Video."

JIEN with the crowd

PHOTOS: BETOY JOHNSON

Azura, on the other hand, has been with "Disney Buzz" for three years, starting in 1999 when it was still a two-hour block. She is the fourth of seven siblings and enjoys hanging out with her younger siblings when she's not too busy.

She was recruited fresh out of high school and was selected among thousands who auditioned during a nationwide search in Malaysia. She was waiting at tables, while awaiting the results of her university entrance exams, when she got the job. For now, school is on hold but she still wants to study. "I originally wanted to become a lawyer, but now I plan to take broadcasting. That's what I really want to do now."

Azura has also tried acting, appearing in a popular Malaysian TV sitcom called "Buddies," together with Jien. And last year, she was nominated by Levi's as one of the best-looking celebrities in jeans.

Wackiest

Jien is the oldest among the trio—in terms of experience and age—the wackiest and, arguably, the most recognizable. He was the original "Disney Buzz" host in 1997 and is now also its producer and scriptwriter. He has appeared in almost a hundred TV commercials and print advertisements in Malaysia since the age of 3. In 1999, he was nominated as one of Asia's Top 5 Presenters at the 1999 Asian Television Awards.

Jien joined the show after finishing a media studies course in Australia. He says "Disney Buzz" is scripted but a lot of it is ad lib. "It's not like a TV series or sitcom where we use word for word. The magic is when you add things into it." Where does he get his ideas? "Anywhere and everywhere. You have to eat, live and breathe the show as well, I think about it all the time."

The trio are under no pressure to act different or be more wholesome than real.

It may be too early to tell what will happen to Jien, Azura and Karen in the future. Chances are, they will take the cue from their American counterparts, the Mickey Mouse Club, and become celebrities, like Britney Spears, Justin Timberlake and Christina Aguilera, to mention a few.

ATASHA Aaron

ANTONIO Andres

For Aga . . .

From page E5

work. But to work together, *parang* we're pushing it... *'wag na 'yon...*

Do you still find time as a couple now that you have kids? You mentioned that you were in the US...

A: *'Yun ang* priority *naman talaga. Sinabi ko s'ya yung* baby *ko* No. 1 *talaga.*

***Pero* how were you able to go to the US?**

A: *'Yung mga lolas gusto... kulang na lang sabihin nila, "'Wag na kayong umuwi, ha?"* (Laughter)

Gaano kayo katagal doon?

C: *Mga* 18 days.

So it was just a break.

C: Yeah. He really wanted to take a break because when I was pregnant, he couldn't leave. He was with me the whole time. I couldn't travel. So before he starts with the movie, he wanted to take a break and go to the States. So we went.

So the babies were left to the *lolas*...

C: Yeah. Of course, they were very happy. Our families are just waiting for the kids. (Laughs)

***Tig-isa na sila ngayon, walang inggitan...* (Laughter)**

C: Yeah, even with us. *Kanina*, he wanted to make the kids *pasyal*. I said, "But it's hard because it's the both of them." He said "What if we bring one?" I said, "*Eh, paano 'yung isa?*" (Laughs) *Kawawa naman.* So stay *na lang.*

A: *Dapat dala namin sila kanina, eh.*

C: And when it's both, it's really a big production.

Two babies, two *yayas*, two everything...

C: Yes. (Laughs)

A: I have to change my car. I have to get a bigger van for them. You know, *pag-uwi ng mga bata sa bahay*, their first checkup was like two weeks after birth, we really had to get a van *talaga* for that checkup. (Laughter) When we went to Baguio, me, Charlene, the kids, the *yayas*, the drivers... *lahat ng gamit ng bata nasa* van. *Puno ang* van. We had to bring one car *para lang sa maleta naming dalawa.* (Laughter) *Grabe ang gamit ng mga bata, dalawa nang dalawa 'yan.* (Laughs)

C: Two strollers...

A: *Ang sarap! Hindi ka maghahanap ng gagawin*, because *'pag umalis ka kasama ng mga anak mo*, that's it.

Is there anything more you can ask for?

C: *Sobra-sobra na ang binigay sa akin.*

A: Just for God be with us all the time.

What are your plans for your kids?

C: Just to give them a good education and a good home environment.

***Halimbawa gusto rin mag-*show biz?**

A: *Tagal pa 'yon.* (Laughs)

How about your career? Don't you feel any pressure now that you're a family man and there's new competition and the show-biz industry is not doing that well...

A: I'd be very happy if *may makita akong* new actors, new good actors *na may magagandang* values *sa buhay. Itataas ko pa sila.* You know, this is not only mine... *kung may magaling d'yan, sumikat*, I'd be very happy *basta mahalin lang nila 'yung trabaho nila, 'wag nila babuyin 'yung industriya, sayang 'yung industriya...* and more prepaid cards. (Laughter)

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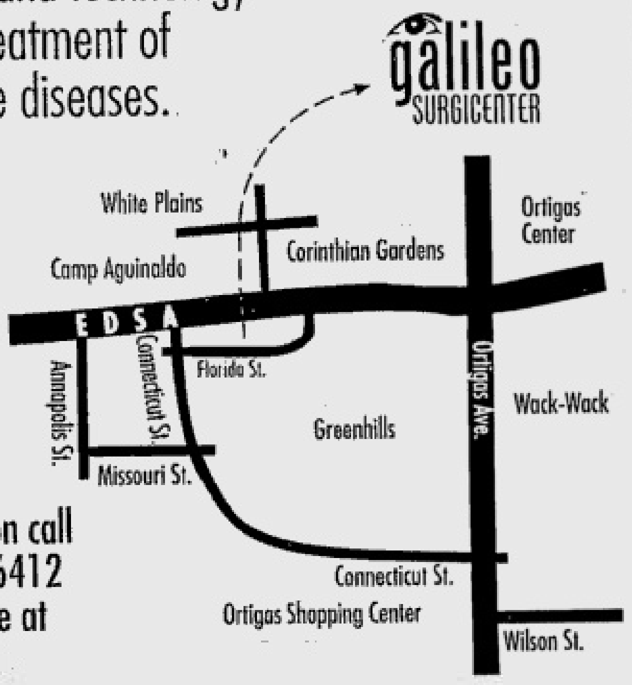

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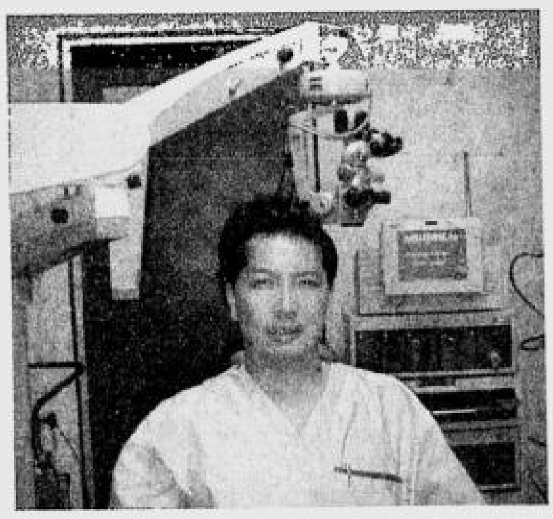

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Fund-raising is both advocacy and adventure

Easter is a good time to start a Lifestyle column on the who, what, where, when, why, how and how much of giving and volunteering, in partnership with Venture for Fund Raising

By Rowena C. Burgos

IS the Filipino giving? Judging by the results of a 2001 survey commissioned by Venture for Fund Raising, the answer is yes.

Findings of the survey done by Taylor Nelson Sofres-Philippines for Venture validate the assertion that Filipinos are a giving people. They also show that in a random sample of 1,410 respondents in Metro Manila, Benguet, Iloilo, Southern Leyte, Zamboanga del Norte and Davao del Sur, 85 percent said that they had given to persons and causes at least once in their lifetime.

The survey also showed that of those who had given, 94 percent gave in the year 2000, a particularly tough year financially for most everyone.

Venture had initiated the survey because it realized the need for NGOs and other nonprofits to base fund-raising plans and strategies on accurate and relevant data. True enough, the survey revealed that only 49 percent of individuals knew what NGOs were, and an even smaller percentage was willing to give to such organizations.

Venture's study then gave birth to a regional research project on giving and fund-raising, which covers other Asian countries:

FUND-RAISING/ p.F2

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Four steps to a better world

IT takes more than money or power to make a difference in people's lives, and, oftentimes, the more valuable contributions people make are those that don't involve money. All it really takes is a little self-assessment, some creativity and talent, and a whole lot of enthusiasm.

NEW WAYS OF GIVING

Step 1: Evaluate your knowledge, skills and talents. Before embarking on your save-the-world endeavor, take a hard, honest look at yourself and make an inventory of your knowledge, skills and talents that you think can be useful to others. Are you brilliant at accounting, terrific at painting or excellent at baking? Then you're just the person the world needs. No skill is ever useless to anyone, and millions of Filipinos out there need all the help they can get.

Step 2: Assess your values. You may be a genius in whatever task you undertake, but you will ultimately choose what or whom to support based on your core values. Do you want to spend time entertaining children and orphans, or would you rather use photography to protect endangered animal species? It's important to like what you're doing so make sure to go with something that's more you.

Step 3: Get acquainted with the organizations in your community. Did you know that there are over 60,000 nongovernment organizations (NGOs) and nonprofit organizations (NPOs) all over the country? These organizations work for particular causes (e.g., abused children, environment, theater and the arts, religion, poverty alleviation, etc.), and usually work within a community or locality. Examples would be orphanages, charismatic communities, foundations and cooperatives. Know what causes they work for, what they do and what resources they need. Chances are you'll easily find an organization that suits your liking, and one that needs your resources.

Contact the following networks for more information on NGOs and NPOs: Association of Foundations, tel. 913-7231, telefax 911-9792, e-mail afnatl@codewan.com.ph; Caucus of Development NGO Network (Code NGO), tel. 426-6001 to -60 local 2709/35, fax 426-5938, e-mail caucus@codewan.com.ph; Department of Social Welfare and Development, tel. 734-8649/47 (NCR office), fax 734-8649, e-mail dswd-ncr@psdn.org.ph; League of Corporate Foundations, tel. 897-9043/44, fax 897-9054, e-mail league@amanet.net; Makati-NGO Network, tel. 897-9043 to -44, fax 897-9043; Philippine Council for NGO Certification, tel. 897-6041 or 899-1359, fax 895-6169, e-mail pcncert@mozcom.com; the Social Welfare office in your municipality (visit your municipal hall for more information).

Step 4: Go out and do something. Now that you know what you have, what you'd like to do and where to go, spend time to volunteer for a cause. Better yet, bring your friends along and have a blast while reaching out to others in need.

Questions, comments or suggestions? E-mail info@venture-asia.org or fax 637-3545. Or visit www.venture-asia.org, e-mail info@venture-asia.org, call 634-8889 to -90 or fax 637-3545.

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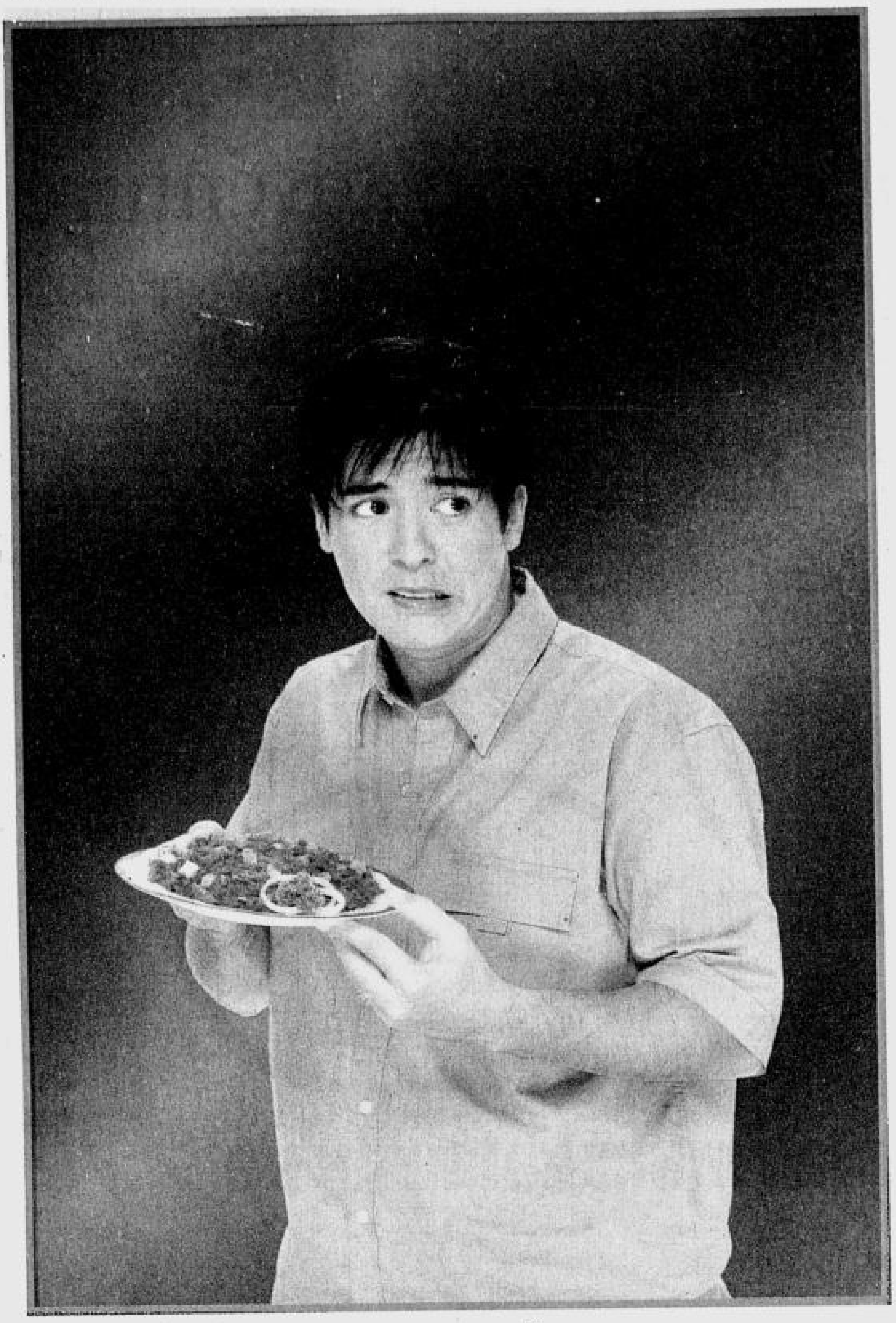
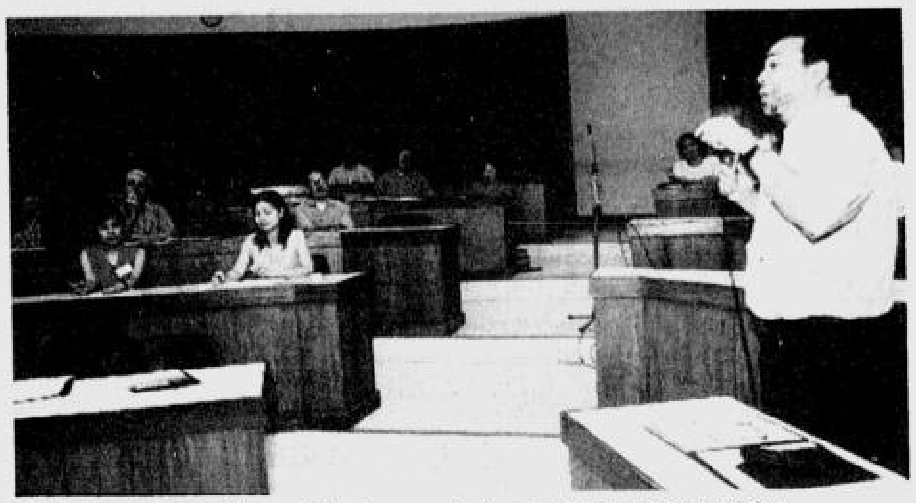




JAIME Faustino, president of Venture, conducts a workshop on fund-raising.

Fund-raising is both advocacy and adventure

From page F1

Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan and Thailand.

Nurturing relationships

"Fund-raising is not only about money but raising friends. Once you have advocates, cash will come in," says Marianne Quebral, Venture's executive director. "Nurture relationships with donors so they'll be committed to your organization results."

Established in 1999, Venture is a nonprofit organization that provides consulting, public information, research and training assistance on fund-raising to other nonprofits in the Philippines and Asia. "If Venture will do the fund-raising for these organizations, it won't be as effective as if these groups will do it themselves. You are the best speaker for your own organization," Quebral says.

With more than 15 years of fund-raising experience, Quebral managed the largest non-direct mail campaign in the Philippines that raised P85 million for Unicef. She cofounded Venture with Jaime Faustino, former assistant representative of The Asia Foundation; Marvee Celi, former executive director of the Asian Institute of Management Scientific Research Foundation; and John Silva, who has over 20 years of fund-raising experience in organizations like the National Museum, American Cancer Society, Greenpeace and Oxfam. Quebral, Faustino and Celi trained at Indiana's School of Fundraising. The other members of Venture, on the other hand, attended the Congress of Fundraisers in the US.

Quebral emphasizes that Venture is "an autonomous organization" that participates in networks of fund-raisers like the Association of Fundraising Professionals in the US and Resource Alliance in the UK. Thirty percent of Venture's finances comes from grants while 69 percent is from training seminars, and 1 percent from donors. "But we're targeting to reduce the 30 percent to 15 in 2-3 years' time."

Training courses

One of the most critical issues that nonprofits face is ensuring financial sustainability for their good work to continue. So Venture responds to such need by training NGOs to manage their own fund-raising campaigns. "We teach them to raise money not from the usual sources such as large foundations. Aside from depending on grants and earned income, we teach organizations to reach out to the general public so they can participate in social development. We try to help them simplify their messages so ordinary people will understand and support their causes. One doesn't have to be rich to become a philanthropist. You can be one even if you'll just give P200," Quebral explains.

A basic course on fund-raising, which includes planning, direct mail and launching special events, takes 3½ days. Venture also plans to come up with one- to two-day workshops on financial management, tax laws and face-to-face fund-raising with major donors. These public courses are limited to 15 participants to preserve the quality of interaction between facilitators and participants. These involve executive directors, senior program officers and board of directors. "They play a crucial role in raising money for an organization," Quebral says.

Organizations that need continued, one-on-one guidance in making strategies, planning, testing and evaluating their financial sustainability and fund-raising work can also avail of Venture's consulting services.

Venture is currently helping Miriam College raise P75 million for their 75th anniversary; also Habitat for Humanity, Ayala Foundation and Center for Culinary Arts' Culinary Education Foundation. Of late, the organization trained the staff of the Philippine Cerebral Palsy Foundation, Haribon Foundation and the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism.

Expertly orchestrated

Fund-raising events play a major role in filling war chests. According to Venture, paying attention to details becomes essential to the trade. Although the main purpose of the event is to raise money, with a few added touches, your guests can walk away, looking forward to returning next time.

Why hold an event? You can raise a large sum of money in a short period of time. It can be the highlight of your campaign, something you do year after year. Or you can use it as a reward to your major donors.

Giving guests an enjoyable experience at an event takes a lot of hard work. The trick is to make the final result run like a seamless, timed production. All the elements need to be expertly orchestrated.

Beginning this Sunday, Venture for Fund Raising will teach the joy of giving in a bimonthly column in Sunday Lifestyle. Through the column, it hopes to reach more people who are willing to make a difference and support NGOs that work to improve the lives of individuals.

"Venture believes that supporting nonprofits will give the public a greater sense of ownership in local development initiatives and will help sustain these over the long term," says Quebral. "Giving will also oblige NGOs to be more transparent and accountable. It also challenges groups not to depend on a single grant-giving foundation. This will benefit organizations in the long run and assure them of a more sustainable future."

Call 634-8889 to -90 or fax 637-3545.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

> Venture's objective in writing the new column on giving and volunteering is to fill the public's need for information on legitimate, transparent and accountable NGOs to which they can give

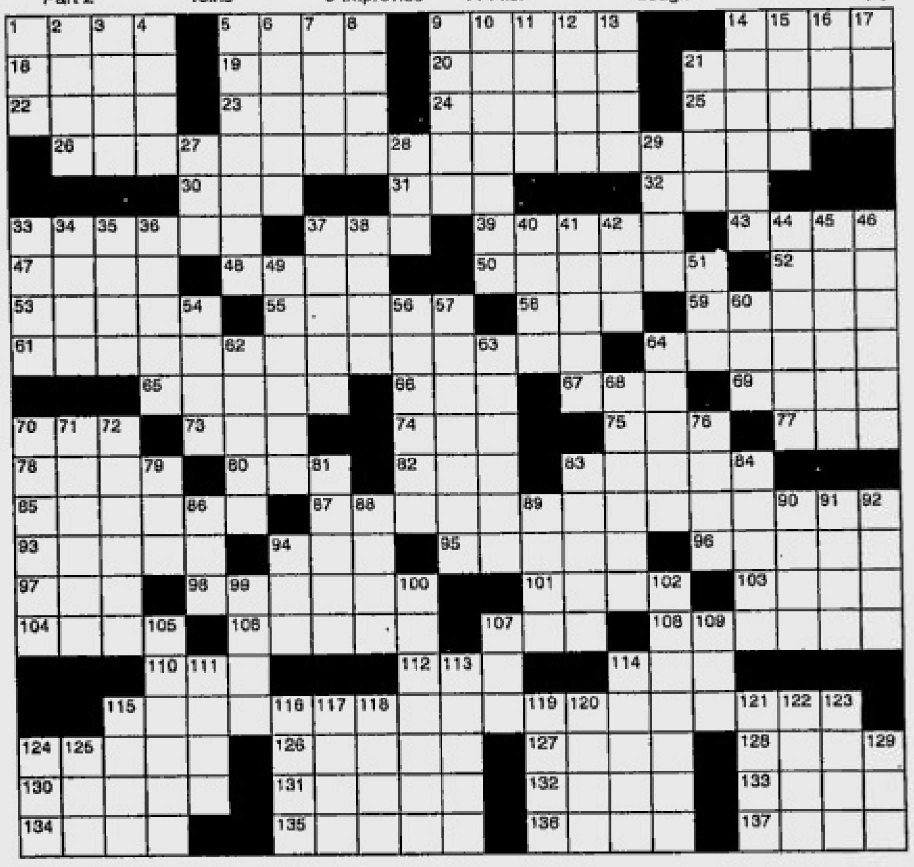
MARIANNE Quebral, Venture executive director

ROLE-PLAYING

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Move swiftly
5 Oates' partner
9 Learns fast?
14 Spill the beans
18 Art deco designer
19 Concept
20 Spartan serf
21 "— Train" ('71 hit)
22 Marsh duck
23 Family
24 Cremona craftsman
25 Kickoff
26 Riddle: Part 1
30 Elf
31 "A mouse!"
32 Slippery —
33 Paris, to Helen
37 — -de-lance
39 Take the honey and run
43 — ghanouj
47 On a whale watch
48 Holler
50 Pay up
52 Actor McKellen
53 Wise guy
55 Retreats
58 — standstill
59 Heavyweight Holmes
61 Riddle: Part 2
64 With hands on hips
65 Activist Hoffman
66 Misjudge
67 Went jogging
69 Sew a toe
70 Beaver or boater
73 Figs.
74 By means of
75 Alphabet sequence
77 Duncan's denial
78 Singer Tori
80 "Waking — Devine" ('98 film)
82 Part of SASE
83 Coral outcrop
85 Cruise
87 Riddle: Part 3
93 Luncheonette lure
94 Every last bit
95 Distort
96 Bryant or Ekberg
97 "Unforgettable" name
98 Socked a shuttlecock
101 Sharp
103 Thicken
104 Sitka's st.
106 Take the reins
107 — diem
108 On the beach
110 Torrid
112 Beame or Burrows
114 Soupy Sales' dessert?
115 Answer to riddle
124 Serengeti group
126 Dunk it!
127 Clinton Cabinet member
128 Deride
130 Seasonal song
131 "— Gay"
132 Riyadh resident
133 "— -Ca-Dabra" ('74 song)
134 Fret
135 Barrett and Jaffe
136 Spanish surrealist
137 Bog, for short

DOWN
1 Matching pieces
2 Hands
3 Bountiful setting
4 Oscar — Renta
5 Handle wood
6 Improvise
7 Slender
8 Polaroid inventor
9 Rub the wrong way
10 Some movies
11 Be — unto oneself
12 Lorre role
13 Tend the sauce
14 Stupefy
15 Endure
16 Mr. Lucky's card
17 Wager
21 Shooting match?
27 Even if, informally
28 Above, to Arnold
29 Boat bottom
33 Credit alternative
34 "— forgive those . . ."
35 Belfry sound
36 Buccaneers' headquarters
37 Cereal bit
38 Nobelist Wiesel
40 Remini of "The King of Queens"
41 Furry fisherman
42 Child welfare org.
44 Flier
45 Ms. Streisand
46 "Tennis, —?"
49 Plaza Hotel kid
51 Lodge brother
54 Library abbr.
56 Keanu of "Hardball"
57 Short races
60 Lend a hand
62 Porterhouse alternative
63 TV's "Have Gun Will —"
64 Composer Bruckner
68 Perceptive
70 Cigar city
71 Lacking principles
72 Honda competitor
76 Skeleton part
79 Snead or Shepard
81 Investigate
83 Capp character
84 "The Elephant Man" director
86 Vapor
88 Nautical adverb
89 Gardener's tool
90 Mideastern dough
91 "Ripley's Believe — Not"
92 Conductor Jeffrey
94 Collectibles, collectively
99 Tivoli's Villa d'—
100 Blood count?
102 "Out of Africa" setting
105 "— of a Doubt" ('43 film)
107 Cello part
109 Wine word
111 Hurler Hershiser
113 Greek consonants
114 Correctional
115 Employ
116 — -Neisse Line
117 Singer Sonny
118 Aware of
119 Gowned figure
120 Blood components
121 Gulf country
122 "A Tiger Walks" actor
123 Philanthropist Cornell
124 Off. equipment
125 Sneaky sort
129 Turn sharply



ANSWER ON PAGE I2

Be a good food server in 5 days

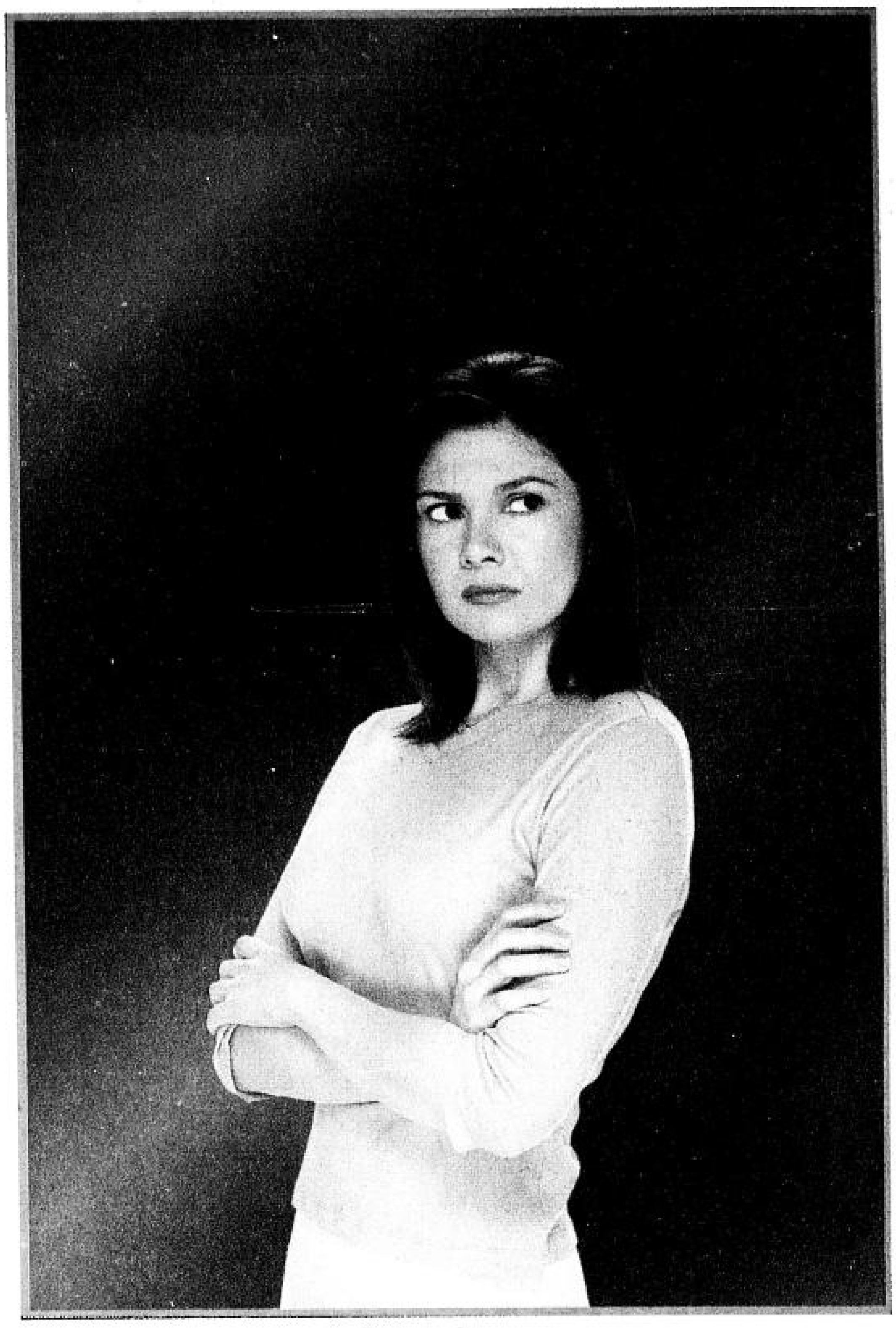
A BASIC Food Servers Training has been organized by ProActive Center for Training on April 1-5, 1-5 p.m., at Bedas Restaurant, C-5, Libis, QC.

Only 20 participants will be accommodated. Seminar fee includes handouts, snacks, certificate of completion and workshop materials and equipment. Free shuttle service from SM Megamall to the venue and back will be provided.

The course is open to those who would like to pursue a food-service career here and abroad.

Call 823-4947 or (0919) 550-0601.

Meryll Soriano
Meryll Soriano
a magical smile...
Milk, Magic
a magical taste...
Milk Magic
UHT Full Cream Fresh Milk
In the new Slim Type Box from Tetra Pak
DAIRY GOOD.
Now available in all leading Supermarkets and Groceries Nationwide.



Courses on fashion and graphic design

CANADIAN-BORN graphic and fashion design consultant Claudine Cloutier will conduct a two- month series of courses on fashion and graphic design starting April 2.

The seminar series, which aims to introduce new aspects of design, will be held at 2/F Trafalgar Plaza, H.V. de la Costa, Salcedo Village, Makati (tel. 819-1001/1002).

Among the topics to be covered are fashion accessories (April 2-3; 4-5), fashion portfolio preparation (April 8-19), experimental fashion drawings (April 22-May 3) and computers for fashion (May 6-17).

Graphic courses will cover branding and corporate identity (April 8-19, April 22-May 3), and advanced graphic layouts and portfolio presentation (May 6-17).

Call 819-1001/1992 or fax 810-2825.

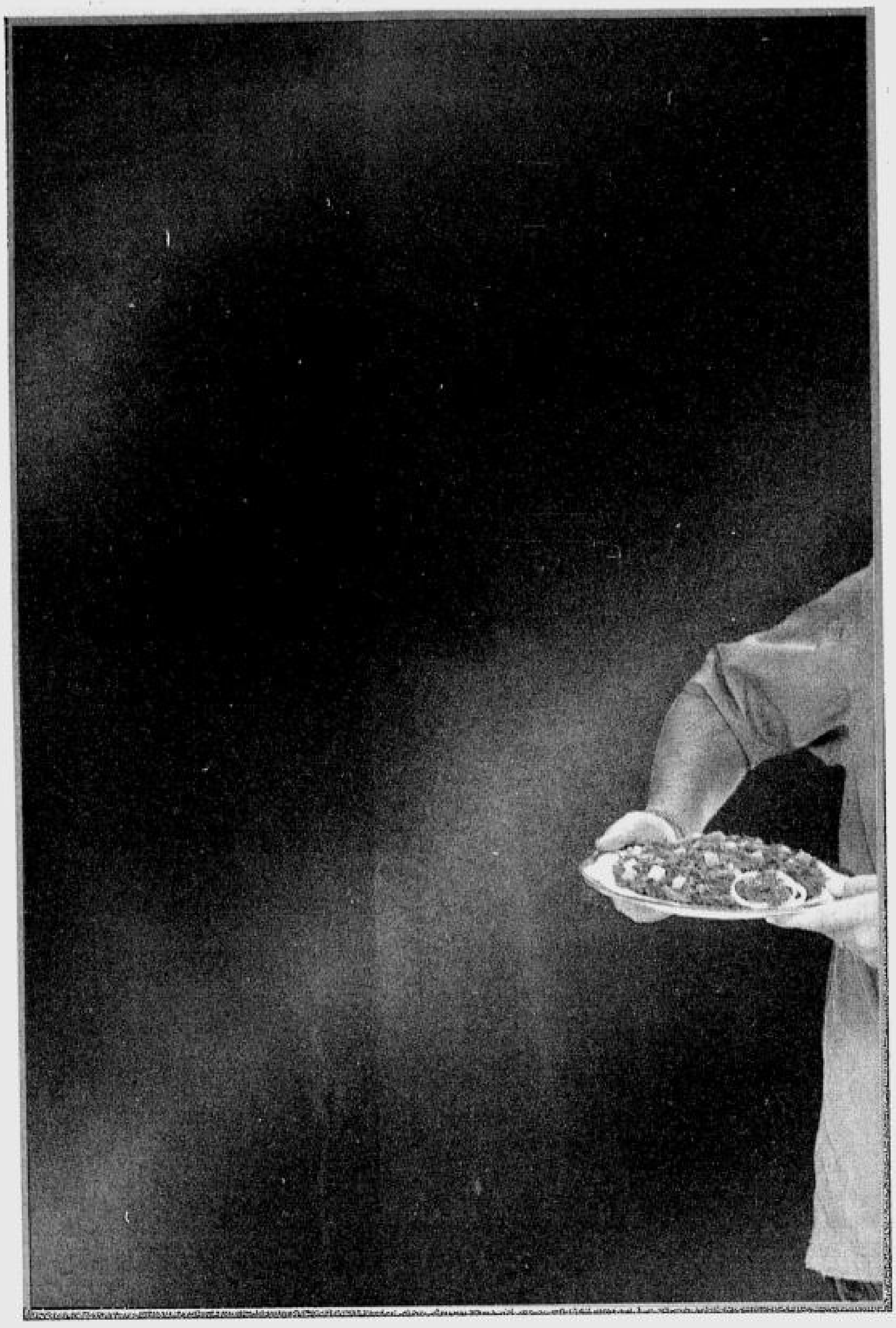
Closing-out sale ends April 7

JODY'S Fabrics is holding a closing-out sale 11 a.m.-9 p.m. until April 7 at Jannov Plaza, 2295 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City.

Started in 1995, Jody's Fabrics, which is owned by Jody Lopez, became known as a reliable supplier in the hotel industry. Later, it launched the Designer's Guild collections, which offered products ranging from linens to accessories including fabrics and furniture.

Call 843-2953.

Eenie, meenie, minie, moRe...
Chorizo Potato Salad
Baby potatoes, bell pepper, tomatoes, and onions blend perfectly with the smoky taste of chorizo.
Asparagus Garden Crunch
Fresh asparagus, water chestnuts and carrots drenched in butter and herbs.
Corn on the Cob
Steamed sweet corn. Delightfully crunchy!
Garlic Butter Mushrooms
Choice button mushrooms in butter, herbs and garlic. Irresistible!
Pili Waldorf Salad
A new take on a classic -- red and green apples, celery, and pili nuts in a tangy lemon dressing.
Chicken Macaroni
Your favorite salad takes on a delightful sweet-sour flavor.
Fresh new side dishes only from
Kenny Rogers Roasters
Some side dishes may not be available in some stores.



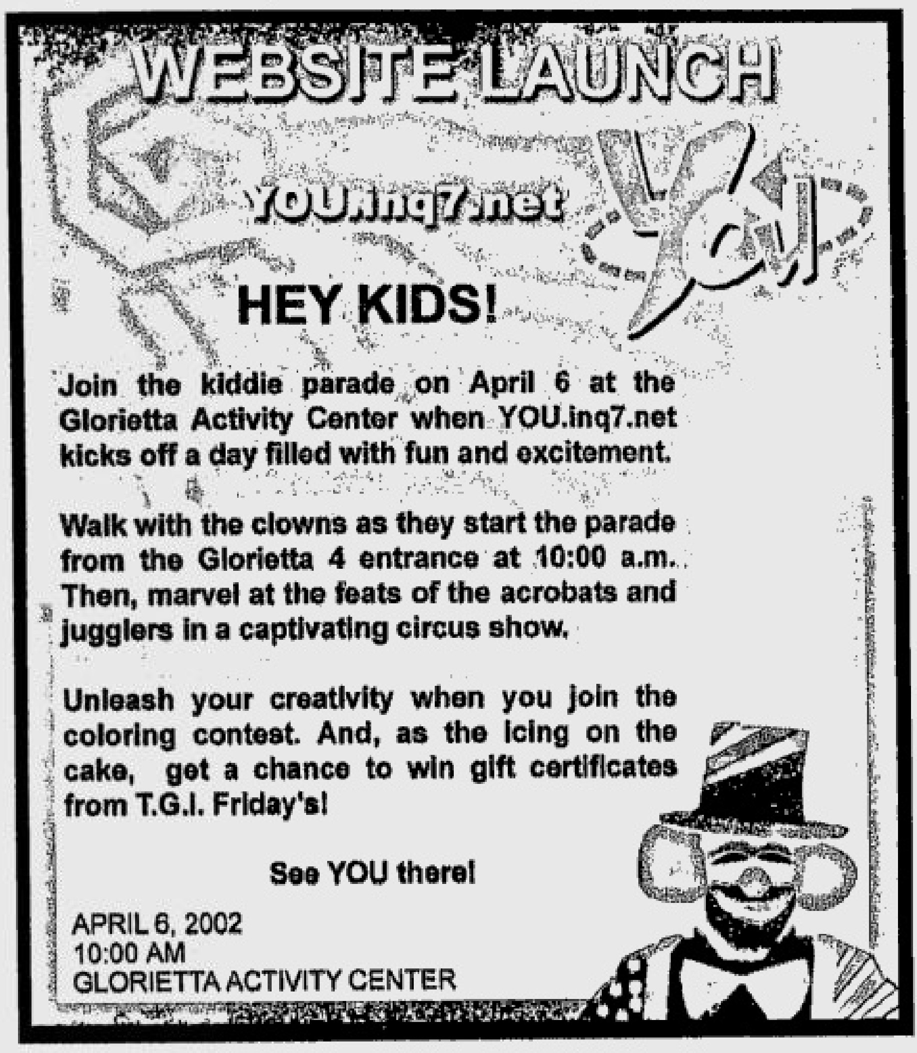
Easterrific activities

STREETLIFE Remix, Makati's food and entertainment hub, is throwing an Easter party. Parlor games, a magic show and puppet show kick off the party. Streetlife will also hold egg-hunting activities for kids. Find as many Easter eggs and exchange them for goodies. A special prize awaits the winner with the most number of eggs found.

ALABANG Town Center holds "Easter Fun at the Town" at the Activity Center. Visitors can join games where they can win special prizes by exchanging receipts worth at least P500 from any ATC stores. The first 100 Discount Plus cardholders can also get one free ticket to the event.

HOLIDAY Inn Resort Clark Field presents "Clarky's Easter Kiddie Fair," where exhibitors will be showcasing the best of Pampanga's kiddie party favors, cakes and entertainment photography. Fun-filled events such as balloon sculpting, face-painting, cake decorating demonstrations and a fashion show of children's apparel will be featured. Call (045)599-8000 or 845-1888.

LIBERTY Center on Shaw Boulevard in Mandaluyong City invites kids and their families to an Easter celebration starting 2 p.m. at the LG/F of Liberty Center. Celebrate Easter with balloon twisting, face-painting, magic show and Easter egg-hunting for kids. Visit Liberty Center, where Puregold Price Club, Padi's Point, Wok-Inn, Mc-Donald's, Max's Restaurant, Akiga Japanese restaurant and Pancake House are located. Now open are BPI Family Savings Bank, Pharmashoppe and Citylight Travel & Tours.


WEBSITE LAUNCH
YOU.inq7.net
HEY KIDS!

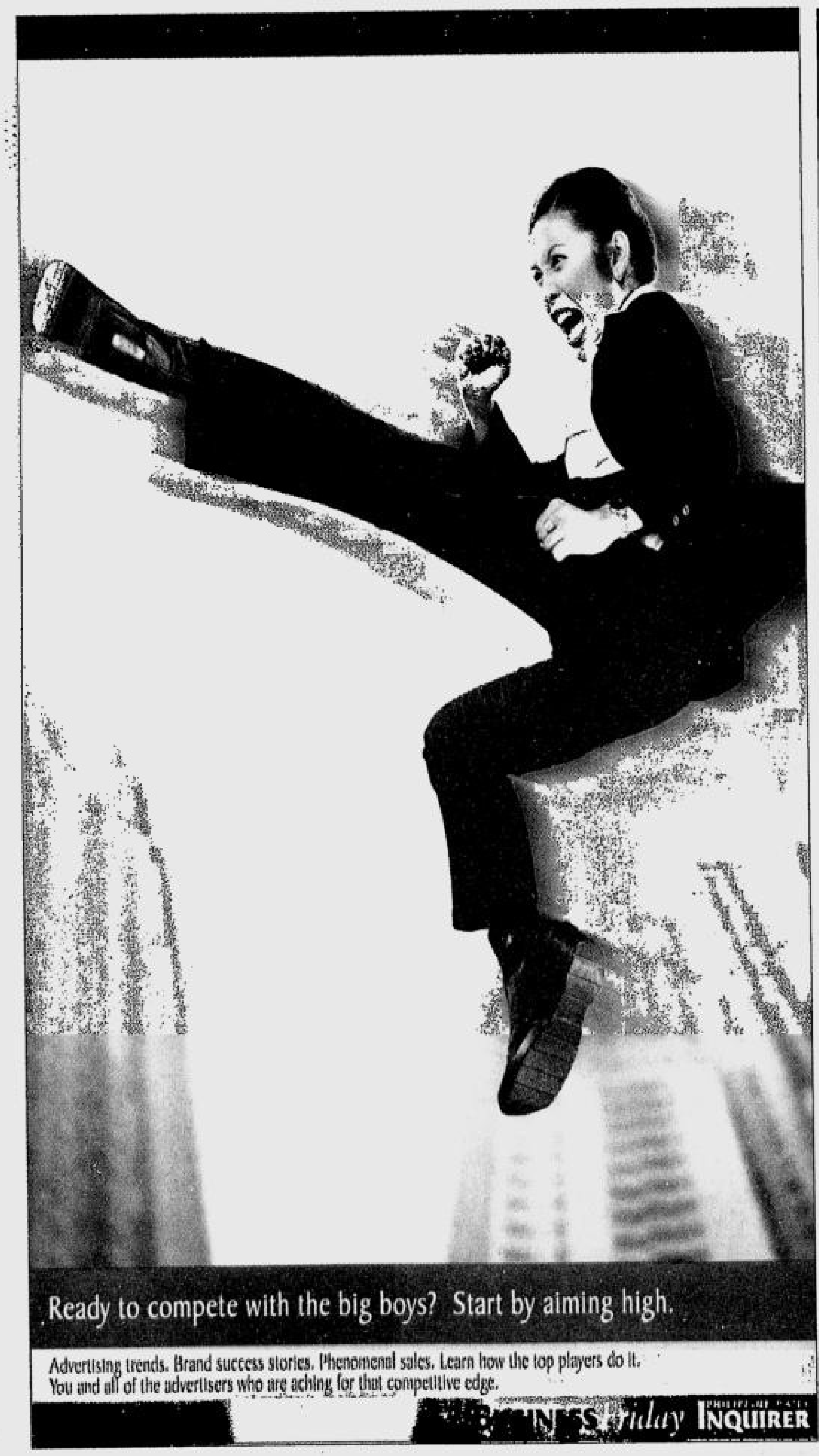
Join the kiddie parade on April 6 at the Glorietta Activity Center when YOU.inq7.net kicks off a day filled with fun and excitement.

Walk with the clowns as they start the parade from the Glorietta 4 entrance at 10:00 a.m. Then, marvel at the feats of the acrobats and jugglers in a captivating circus show.

Unleash your creativity when you join the coloring contest. And, as the icing on the cake, get a chance to win gift certificates from T.G.I. Friday's!

See YOU there!

APRIL 6, 2002
10:00 AM
GLORIETTA ACTIVITY CENTER


Ready to compete with the big boys? Start by aiming high.

Advertising trends. Brand success stories. Phenomenal sales. Learn how the top players do it.
You and all of the advertisers who are aching for that competitive edge.

BUSINESS Friday
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

"If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other."

Community of the Assumption Laity

Youth Camp for Peace
April 1-3, 2002
Assumption Iloilo

Major Sponsors:

SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER 25
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Ms. Marilou Guingona
Ms. Blesilda Roman
Assumption BED Family Council
Assumption College Family Council
Assumption Antipolo Family Council

Aga and Charlene in the new Argentina Corned Beef commercial

Aga and Charlene in the new Argentina Corned Beef Commercial

You know this scene. The wife comes up to the husband and asks what the plans are for the night. Clueless as to what she's talking about, he replies that nothing's set. She leaves in a huff and then he suddenly remembers: it's our anniversary! So how does he make it up to the missus?

In the case of Aga and Charlene, Aga makes up by cooking what Charlene likes best, Argentina Corned Beef. And everything's all right again.

Local filmdom's most popular newlyweds Aga Muhlach and Charlene Gonzalez teamed up for the new Argentina Corned Beef TV commercial, where fans can get the chance to take a closer look at the domestic bliss now shared by the couple, and also see how little disagreements can be solved with a lot of love, and quiet moments shared together.

Everybody knows the Aga-Charlene love story. But unknown to many, Aga and Charlene's love story actually began in the set of the Argentina Corned Beef TV commercial which they did more than a year ago. "We were dancing partners in the commercial," recalls Charlene. "And even if we were friends before, I saw Aga in a whole new different light."

Aga was equally smitten and impressed with his co-star. "It's not just her graceful dancing," he says. "She has this distinct way of carrying herself, elegant yet very down-to-earth."

Now a few months short of their first anniversary as husband and wife, Aga and Charlene look back to that first Argentina commercial which started it all. And now they're eager to share with viewers their new life together, as shown in the new Argentina Corned Beef TV commercial.

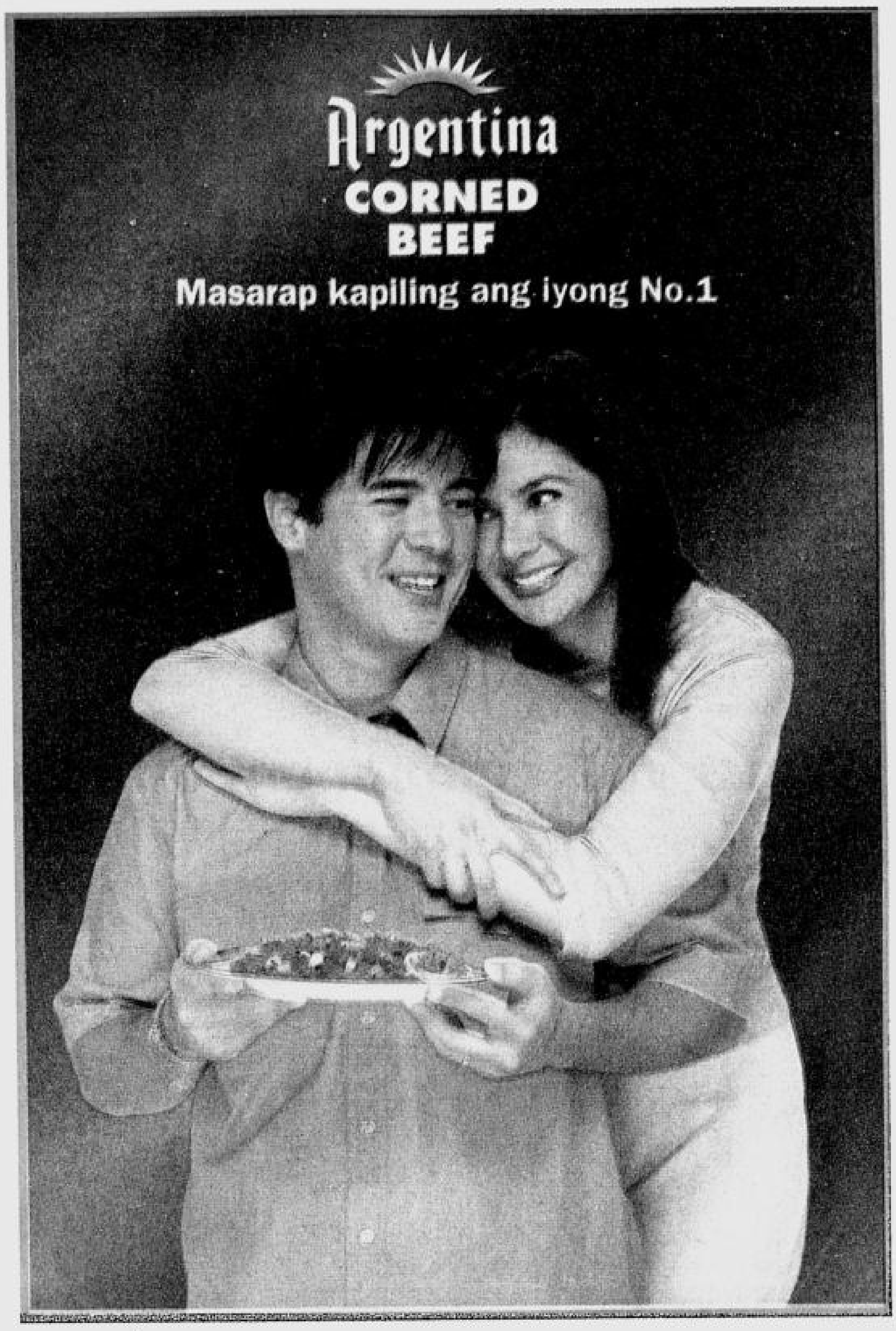
Aga whips up his favorite Argentina Corned Beef recipe to make it up to Charlene

"If I knew that marriage was like this, I would have done it a long time ago," says a beaming Charlene. Sharing the same values and goals regarding their family, Aga and Charlene found very little things to adjust to.

"Of course, a lot of changes have happened, in terms of our lifestyles," says Aga. "But for me, when I got married, everything somewhat became stable. Now things are in order, *mas nagkaroon ng direksyon ang buhay ko.*" And Aga makes Charlene's heart swell by saying that "now when I see other girls, I tell my wife, I could never imagine myself being with anyone else but you." Spoken like a true romantic!

"Aga and I have made that decision to spend the rest of our lives together," says Charlene. "We know that there will probably be some disagreements along the way, but the fact that we're on the same plane, dedicated and ready to make things work, makes things a whole lot easier."

And when little disagreements do happen, Aga says, "Apologize. You have to realize when you're wrong, know when to accept that it's your fault." Just like in their new Argentina Corned Beef TV commercial, loving gestures like cooking for your loved one show that you want to make up, and efforts such as this will always be appreciated and remembered. *Sabi nga nila, nakakalambot ng puso.*


Argentina
CORNED BEEF
Masarap kapiling ang iyong No.1

6 Lozenges
Dichlorobenzyl Alcohol
Amylmetacresol
Strepsils
Orange
ANTIBACTERIAL LOZENGE

FIRST AID
FOR SORE THROATS

In Regular, Menthol, Honey & Lemon, Orange and Sugar-free flavors.

DIAMOND GIRLS. (First row, from left) Betty Clemente-Reyes, Ofelia de Leon-Rendon, Eggie Duran-Apostol, Rosie Osmeña-Valencia, Lina Pablo-de Joya, Sr. Pilar Gonzalez, S.Sp.S.; (second row, from left) Presentacion Quiason, Lina Gavino-Galsim, Mely Cruz-Roa, Lidia Toledo-Provido, Julie Lim-Hidalgo, Letty Unson-Revilla, Ruth Ongsiako-Viri, Liling Orejana-Nuguid; (third row, from left) Pat Nepomuceno-Jacinto, Rosario S.L. Reyes, Helen Tubangui, Chita Diaz, Zeny Buenaventura-Gonzales, Rosario Sevilla-Villamora and Lolita Halili-Abad. Not in photo are Sr. Mary Espino, a missionary in Iloilo and Cebu cities, and golfer Baby Intengan, who has a hole-in-one record to her name.

Diamonds are forever

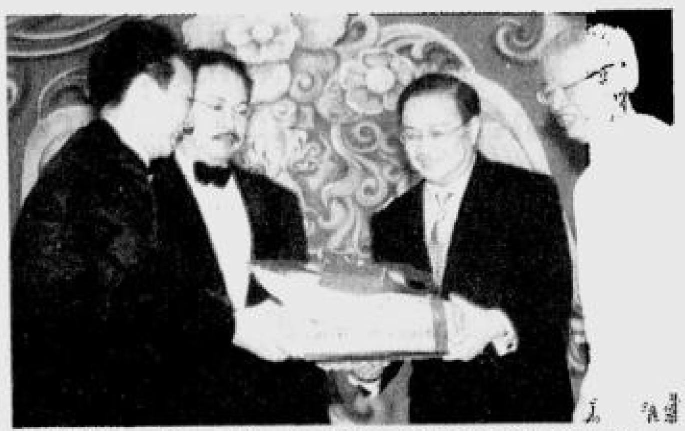
AT THE RECENT annual homecoming of the College of the Holy Spirit, (formerly known as Holy Ghost College and fondly called "Holy Mamaw" by its naughty Bedan neighbors), our Class '42 marked its diamond anniversary.

We celebrated in style, with a musical number conceptualized and organized by our creative and capable leaders, Rosie Valencia and Eggie Apostol.

On cue, we marched onstage to the tune of the alma mater song in long silver gray gowns with shawls of varied radiant hues. As our names were called, two or three lines of our achievements and our latest photos against a background of Liling Nuguid's ikebana arrangements were flashed on two giant screens.

Our little Keeper of the Diamonds, 10-year-old Isabel Kanaan, presented our class a diamond wand, symbol of God's amazing grace that has allowed us to reach this far and remain loyal to dear old HGC.

For our eight-minute number, we thank our singing coach, Tony Carpio, and our choreographer, George Roca. *Mely Cruz-Roa*



RACHY Cuna, Ramon Ricardo Roque, Manny V. Pangilinan and Fr. Anscar Chupungco

Annual ball pays tribute to outstanding Bedans

ALUMNI trooped to the NBC Tent at the Fort Bonifacio Global City for San Beda College's annual event, the "Red and White Ball 2002," a traditional fund-raiser organized and hosted by the San Beda Alumni Association (SBCAA) and the San Beda Alumni Association Foundation.

The NBC Tent reception area featured art pieces and photographs by noted alumni Rachy Cuna, Robert Feleo, Antonio Raymundo and Rev. Basil Apostol, OSB.

Benedictine monks Abbot Tarcisio Ma. Narciso, O.S.B., and SBC rector Rev. Anscar J. Chupungco; SBCAA president Cardie Roque; SBCAF president Dr. Jaime Galvez Tan; and Education Secretary Raul Roco and his wife Sonia welcomed the Bedans and their guests.

Manuel V. Pangilinan, PLDT president, Metro Pacific CEO and Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. chair, was the prime mover for this year's ball. He was assisted by Mario Soriano and Jose Mari Lacson. Pangilinan was presented a Cuna artwork as a token of the Bedan community for his efforts.

The "Red and White Ball 2002" paid tribute to Bedans achievers. The 12 Outstanding Bedans for 2001-02 were Meralco president Jesus "Chito" Francisco; sportsmen Tac Padilla, Chito Loyzaga and the late Ildefonso Tronqued Jr.; Luis Ablaza Jr.; the late Francisco Almeda; Roland Florendo; Herminio Franco; Arthur Ong; Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry chair Miguel Valera; Ramon Ventosa; and film director Jeffrey Jeturian.

Former Manila Mayor Ramon Bagatsing Sr. was conferred an honorary membership to the San Beda College Alumni Association for his genuine commitment to Bedan education. He was represented by his son Dondon.

Secretary Roco received the first Ramon V. Mitra award of excellence for his outstanding achievement in the field of legislation. The late Speaker's wife, Cecilia Blanco Mitra, and sons Rep. Abraham Mitra and Dado Mitra, presented the trophy.

Distinguished Bedans and friends, who did the rigodon de honor to the music of the Moonstruck, included SBCAA president Cardie Roque with Triple V owner Maridel Villavicencio, lawyer Mike Varela and wife Cecile, Meralco president Chito Francisco and wife Mariel, designer Ben Farrales and socialite Thelma Gana, SBCAA vice president Tata Carranceja and Lucil Villanueva, movie director Nick Lizaso and Carmina Pavia, Abiva Press' Jorge Garcia and wife Tetch;

Events producer Albert Almendralejo and model Olen Lim, educator-lawyer Poch Martinez and Ana Tirol, executive Ramsi Sanvictores and Ana Periquet, SBCAF president Dr. Jaime Galvez Tan and wife Becks, top model John Gaddi and Bujing Danao, Club Filipino president Obet de Leon and wife Marilyn, Doods Policarpio and Yoly Ayson, fashion designer Boysie Villavicencio and Tess Castro, Bong de Sales and Mila Lim, and lawyer Rod Robles and wife Nora.

The Apo Hiking Society, whose member Danny Javier is a true-blue Bedan, did a special number. Comedienne-singer Marissa Sanchez and Bedan singer-actor Calvin Millado were masters of ceremonies.

REV. Tarcisio Narciso, O.S.B., and Cecille Mitra

YOLY Ayson and Serge Ayson

Win a VCD component or a karaoke in . . .

SING NA SING RAFFLE SA mercury drug

NAKASISIGURO GAMOT AY LAGING BAGO

Sa Mercury Drug at Strepsils, kahit ilang round ang sing-along!

Lalo na kapag may sarili kang Sony VCD Component o Sharp Karaoke mula sa Sing na Sing Raffle. Kaya bili na ng Strepsils sa alinmang branch ng Mercury Drug sa Greater Manila Area. Ihulog ang wrapper sa dropbox kasama ng resibo na may pangalan, tirahan, telephone number at signature. Kapag may Strepsils, siguradong may 'sing-aloooong'!

Dichlorobenzyl Alcohol
Amylmetacresol

Strepsils
First Aid For Sore Throats

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0182, Series of 2002.

Easter treats for everyone in the family

DISCOVERY Suites is treating the whole family today with a bundle of exciting and fun-filled offerings that include a room promo and carnival for kids and kids at heart. Easter packages include lunch buffet for two persons at the Columbus room and Easter carnival passes and souvenirs for the kids. Kids will be treated to a fun-filled Easter Carnival by Jumpin' Jack at the Discovery Suites Magellan and Drake rooms. The carnival will feature parlor games, an Easter egg hunt, bubble and magic show and painting contest. Call 683-8205 or 635-2222 or visit the Discovery Suites at 25 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

Fun park treats kids

ENCHANTED Kingdom offers kids a special treat today: Children aged 12 years old and below, who buy admission tickets at the front gate ticketing office, automatically get a free return ticket of the same value. They also get a chance to be the "Lucky Visitor of the Day," which extend VIP privileges to the winning guest and up to four of his/her companions.

A lucky guest and four companions who enter the park using a SuperSaver ticket will be entitled to a fast pass, P500 Wizard Money, a souvenir photo with the Wizard and Princess Victoria, and a ticket upgrade to Ride-all.

Other red-letter days at the Park are: April 9 and Sept. 8 (senior citizens with SC ID); May 11-12 (mothers who come with their families); June 12 (park guests wearing red, white and blue); June 15-16 (fathers who come with their families); and June 19-23 (Laguna residents to mark Laguna Week).

Enchanted Kingdom's new park schedule until June 23: Wednesday to Friday, 2-10 p.m.; and Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Admission fees are P400/320 (Ride-all); P250/P200 (Supersaver) and P100 (EK Special). Tickets are also available at all Ticketworld outlets. Call 830-2111 to 17 (Makati office) or 843-6073 to 78 (Sta. Rosa).

Floral treats for Easter

FLOWERS are not only beautiful to look at and uplifting for the soul, they're also good for the skin. Lush, creator of fresh handmade bath and body treats, offers items to pep up your beauty routine.

Lush product creator Helen Ambrosen says, "Flowers are such an inspiration, but we tend to overlook how versatile they are for cosmetics purposes. Not only do they inspire fragrances, they have beneficial properties for the skin. For example, evening primrose oil, which comes from the seed of the flower, or sweet violet leaf, is calming and good for dry skin."

Find the missing eggs

SHANGRI-LA Plaza Mall holds an Easter egg hunt and free face-painting session at the food court area (basement). Famous face painters will execute their masterpieces for a minimum purchase of P1,000 (single or accumulated) from any shops in the mall. During the activity day, you will get a free painting done on your face or hand. The highlight of the celebration is an Easter egg hunt at the 5/L, Phase 2 area. The event will be participated in by a maximum of 200 pairs of parents and children from Shangri-La Mall shoppers. The hunt will bring them to various stores in the mall as they look for the missing eggs with prizes. Call 633-7851.

Low introductory rates

OXFORD Suites, the newest deluxe hotel in Makati for foreign and domestic clients, is offering special introductory rates.

Superior and executive rooms are currently available for only P1,900++ a night. Guests staying for 30 days will pay only P1,350++ a night, single or double occupancy.

Rooms feature quality furnishings, individual "split system" air-conditioning, amenity baskets and satellite "direct" television programming, among others. The Oxford Suites has a fully equipped business center with secretarial services, computer rentals, photo-copying, facsimile services and a conference room for meetings, seminars and interviews.

Just opened is the Stars of Giorgio's, a 24-hour coffee shop and lounge which is an extension of a popular restaurant with the same name on Pasong Tamo Ext. The Oxford Suites has a gym. Hotel guests can also avail of massage services. Call 899-7888.

Special promo

VIVERE at the Richville Regency Suites offers a buffet brunch and various activities like painting, coloring and drawing contests, egg-painting contest, face-painting, "Best in Costume" contest and the Easter egg hunt. Kids aged 10 years and below get to avail of a 50-percent discount, while tots aged 3 years and below are free of charge. Families who avail of Vivere's special room package, which is valid until April 8, will be given an additional 10-percent discount on ticket prices for the "Easter at Vivere" promo. Call 771-7777.

Bring home an Easter bunny

FESTIVAL Supermall in Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang will be giving away Easter bunnies to its lucky shoppers today at the 2/L Carousel Court. For a minimum purchase worth P500 (single receipt only) from any store in the mall, shoppers will be entitled to play the Easter Pachinko where they can win Easter bunnies and gifts. Meanwhile, Kids @Art will hold a free "Paint an Easter Egg" art workshop. Call 850-3517.

Magical Easter

MANDARIN Oriental presents "Magical Easter," a series of delightful activities at the ballroom with a storytelling session featuring "Wee Wizards" books, parlor games and egg hunt. Admission is free to those partaking of the brunch buffet at The Brasserie or Tin Hau. Special prizes await children dressed in wizard costumes. Call 750-8888 local 2201/2231 or 892-4255.

Egg-citing Easter for mall visitors

VISIT SM Supermalls and celebrate Easter with egg-citing events, treats and surprises.

Miffy, the cute and lovable bunny from the Netherlands, will be at the SM Supercenter Sucat and SM Megamall today.

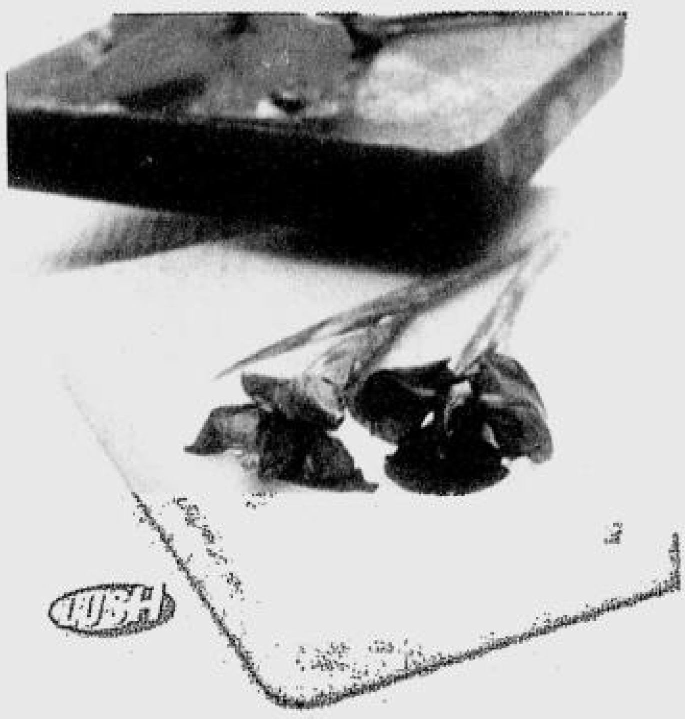
The bunny will be at the Miffy Easter Party, which will offer nonstop fun. Kids can join the "Create Your Own Miffy Bunny Ears," attend Miffy storytelling sessions and get to be art smart in the "Miffy Drawing and Coloring and Egg Painting" activities. There will be games and cool prizes.

Meanwhile, at 1:30 p.m., Storyland, the country's most exciting indoor theme park, presents "Easter Eggs-Travaganza." Guests with Eggbert and the Storyland gang pins get a chance to win exciting prizes in the "Easter Costume Parade and Contest."

There will also be "Egg Decorating and Coloring and Drawing" contests, Easter egg hunt, puppet show and face-painting activity.

Storyland's Fun-tasy Pass is available for only P700 for every group of four.

The SM Ice Skating Rinks turn into a diva domain as the Diva Starz pay an Easter visit. A joint project with Richwell, three starz, Alexa, Summer and Pinky, will be visiting the Ice Skating Rinks in the SM Megamall and Southmall. Join the "Best Easter Costume" and "On-the-Spot Best Diva Star" and win Barbie dolls from Richwell.

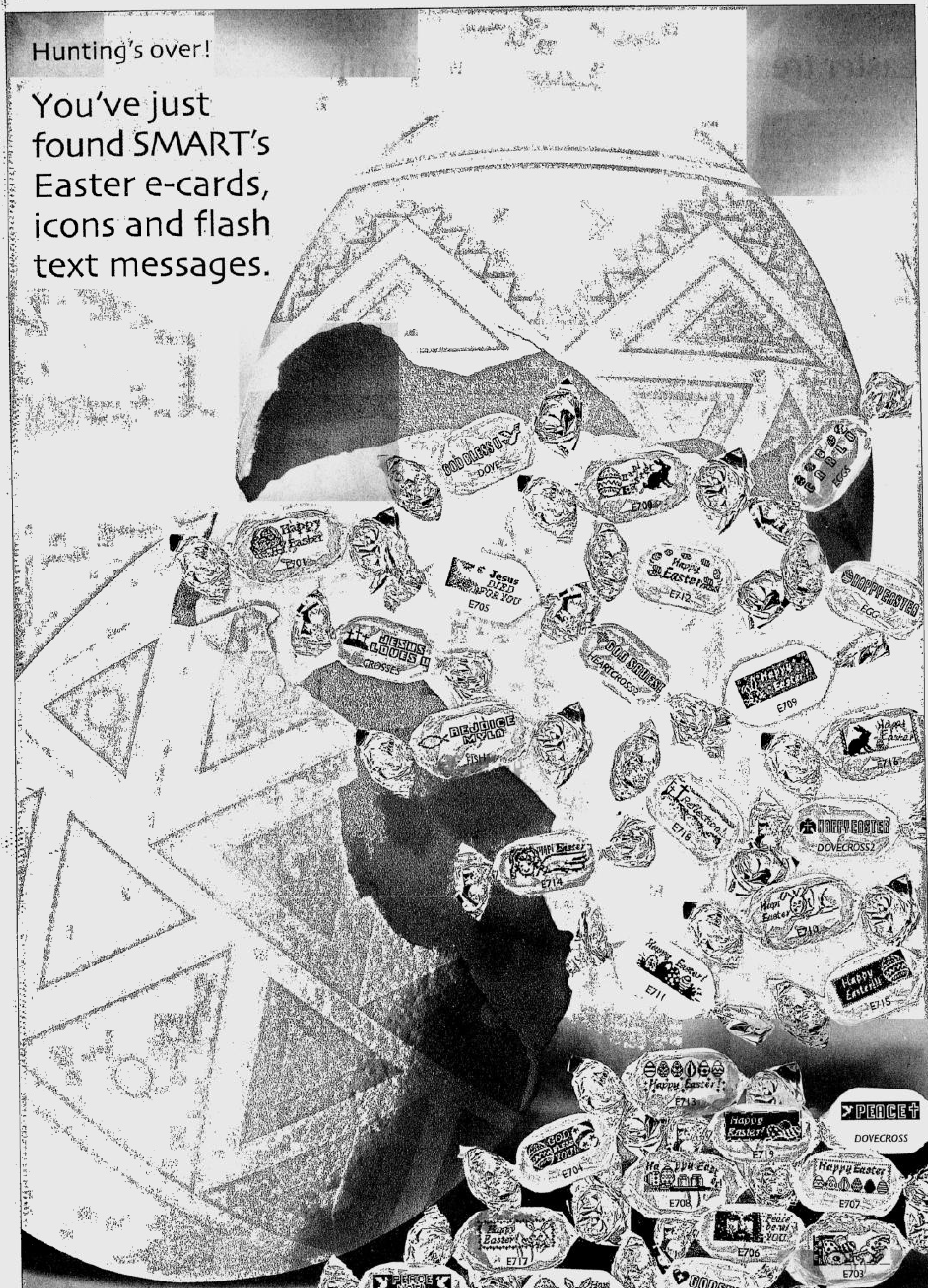


LUSH solid deodorant

Join!
FRUTIPS™
Trip to
FRUITLANDIA
Help King Munchee find his fruits in Fruitlandia, and do other fun activities in his kingdom!
FRUITY PEN
Explore the slides and tunnels of King Munchee's Fruity Pen! Roll & play in fruity colored balls.
fruit paint!
Have your favorite fruit painted on your face at the Fruit Paint booth!
Fruity Me
Have your picture taken with King Munchee & the rest of the fruit gang!
COLOR MY WORLD FRUITY
Visit the Fruitlandia Forest, get a Fruitlandia portrait and color it your way. A special prize awaits the one who did the best!
FRUIT KIOSKS
Come and get your fill of the special treats in the Fruitlandia Forest's Fruit Kiosks!
KING MUNCHEE & THE FRUITLANDIA FOREST WILL BE AT THE SM MEGAMALL ACTIVITY CENTER ON APRIL 14, 2002
EXPERIENCE "FRUITY" FUN WITH THE WHOLE FAMILY WHEN YOU EXCHANGE 5 EMPTY PACKS OF ANY FRUTIPS PRODUCTS FOR A FREE PASS.
FRUTIPS
SM MEGAMALL

Hunting's over!

You've just found SMART's Easter e-cards, icons and flash text messages.


GOD BLESS U
DOVE
E709
EGGS
Happy Easter
E701
Jesus DIED FOR YOU
E705
Happy Easter
E712
HAPPY EASTER
EGG
JESUS LOVES U
CROSSES
GOD SAVES!
HEARTCROSS2
Happy Easter
E709
REJOICE MYLA
FISH
Happy Easter
E716
Reflection
E718
HAPPY EASTER
DOVECROSS2
Hapi Easter
E714
Hapi Easter
E710
Happy Easter!
E711
Happy Easter!!!
E715
Happy Easter!
E713
PEACE
DOVECROSS
Happy Easter!
E719
GOD BLESS YOU
E704
Happy Easter
E708
Happy Easter
E707
Peace be wi YOU
E706
Happy Easter
E717
E703
PEACE NOEL
DOVES
Hapi Easter
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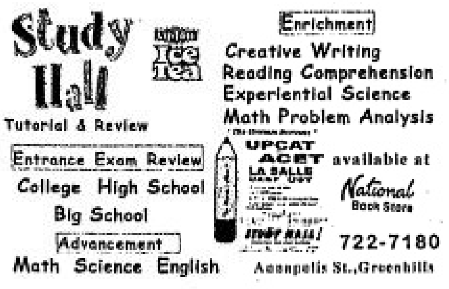
Sunday LIFES

Weddings & Engagements

G1



Love sees beyond stereotypes

Despite shared interests, Myla and Mehul were and still are worlds apart in many ways

ALL IN THE FAMILY. Mehul and Myla Meru with 5-month-old Manisha Isabella

PHOTO: ROMY HOMILLADA

By Alex Y. Vergara

A SERIOUS relationship was farthest from Myla Muñoz's mind when she first entered the Asian Institute of Management in 1994. Yet, by the time she had earned a master's degree in business management two years later, Myla was up to her neck preparing for her two weddings—a Catholic one in Manila and a traditional Hindu ceremony in Jaipur, the capital of the northwestern Indian state of Rajasthan.

Myla and Indian husband Mehul Meru belong to a growing number of interfaith unions that have blossomed in an increasingly shrinking world still wracked by cultural clashes and sectarian violence. The Manila-based couple is now the proud parents of 5-month-old Manisha Isabella.

The love story began when the certified public accountant caught the eye of the Indian-born, US-educated Mehul, then also a fresh face at AIM. Although the two didn't belong to the same class, they knew each other by face. He slipped a note in Myla's pigeonhole asking her out. (AIM required its students then to live in the school's dormitories for some time.)

"I've just quit my job to focus on my studies," says Myla in their modest Makati condominium. "Dating was the least of my concerns." Curiosity, however, eventually got the better of her. She soon found herself asking classmates and mutual friends about her Indian admirer. Although they spoke highly of Mehul, Myla was still reluctant to accept his invitation.

Overcoming stereotypes

"I had to overcome certain stereotypes I had of Indian men back then," she admits. Never mind if Mehul didn't sport a turban or cruise Makati on a motorcycle peddling everything from umbrellas to mosquito nets. And, yes, he did use deodorant. Still, it took her a while to reply.

As the courtship happened before the advent of e-mail and text messaging, Myla sent Mehul an unsigned note via the same route to verify the invitation's origin. He lost no time calling her in her dorm to confirm that the invitation did come from him.

Mehul knew very little about the Philippines and Filipinos, but says, "I found her attractive, so I asked her out."

The Indian and Filipina hit it off quite nicely from the start. "I became more fascinated with her over dinner. She was so spontaneous," Mehul, now the regional representative of IDT, a New Jersey-based telecommunications company, adds.

Although Filipinos have this stereotype about how Indians smell, it was Myla who unwittingly almost made a social gaffe. She ordered fish with garlic when they went out.

"I could smell the garlic while she talked," says Mehul. "She was so uninhibited. I thought it was cute."

Myla found Mehul fascinating as well. She relished his gift of gab and wonderful sense of humor.

"I got along with him very well," she says. "I was surprised to find out that we had a lot in common, particularly our interest in NGO work."

Amid volumes of convoluted case studies, circuitous graphs and long oral reports, love managed to bloom. Their relationship took a serious turn after three months of dating.

The pair have had ample time to know each other and discuss their differences before finally sealing their fates at the San Agustin Church one fine day in December of 1996. They made their vows all over again, this time Indian-style, in Jaipur less than a month later. Their respective parents attended both ceremonies.

Worlds apart

Despite their shared interest, they were and still are worlds apart in many ways. For one, Myla is a devout Catholic, and Mehul, a Hindu. She's a product of Catholic schools (St. Scholastica's College and later the Assumption) and had virtually lived in the Philippines all her life before getting married.

Mehul, on other the hand, has been exposed to both Indian and American cultures and systems of education, having spent most of his formative years in India before leaving for the United States to pursue college. As a child, he also lived for a time in Sweden, where his parents were then based.

"I worked in various countries while I was with the Unicef and WHO," says the seasoned traveler. "I decided to go back to school and earn a master's degree in business, but my bank balance wasn't good enough. I did my

LOVE/ p.G4

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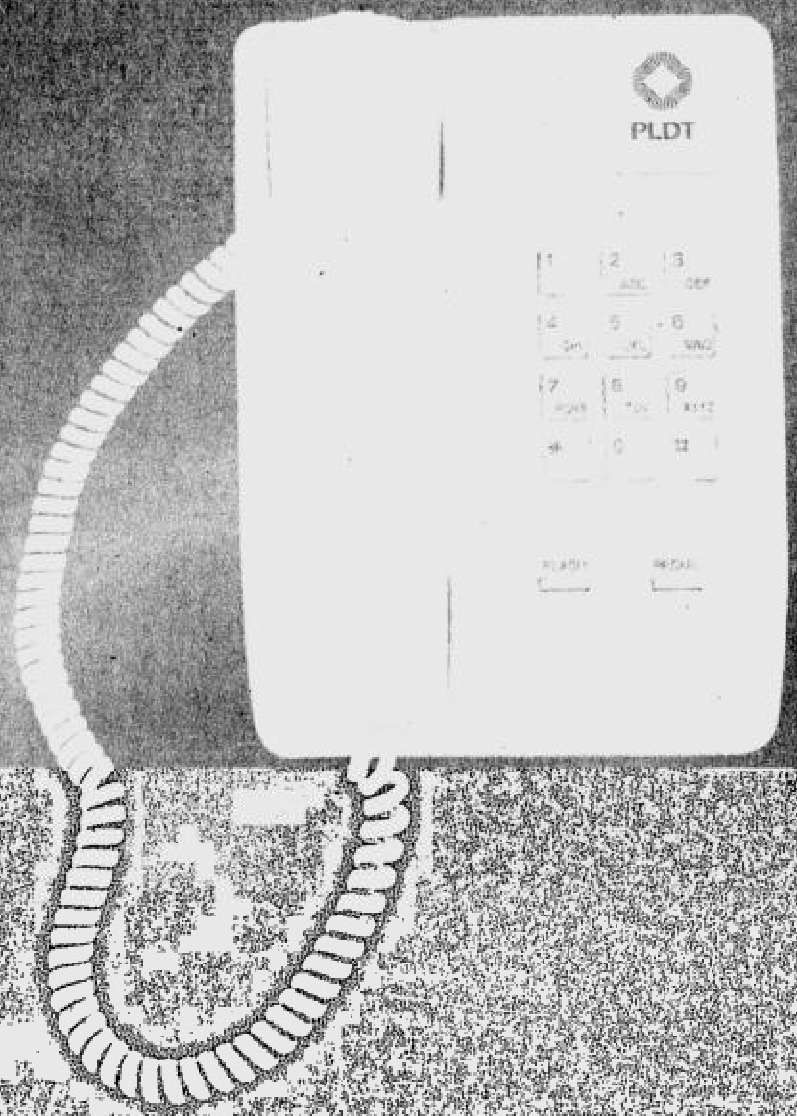

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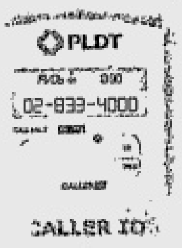

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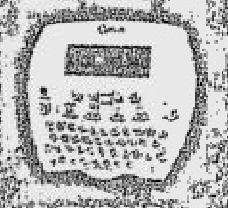

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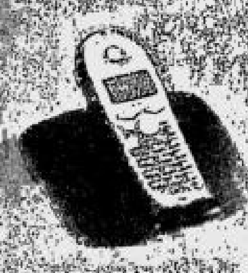

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Caller ID	P 75.00
Call Waiting	P 50.00
Call Forwarding	P 50.00
Speed Calling	P 50.00
DDD	P 4,700.00
TOTAL	P 5,625.00
BUNDLE PRICE	P 4,500.00
YOU SAVE	P 1,125.00 (20%)

DDD [illegible]

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Love sees beyond stereotypes

From page G1

math and figured how cheaper it was to study at AIM."

The Makati-based business school has quite a reputation in Asia, especially in India.

Religion has never been an issue in the Meru household. Nor did differences in faiths become a hindrance in getting the Catholic Church's blessings.

"An interfaith union is allowed," says Myla, "as long as the non-Catholic promises to allow his or her spouse to practice the Catholic faith and raise their children as Catholics."

Manisha Isabella has been baptized in a Catholic church before receiving blessings at a Hindu temple.

What was harder to do for the church wedding was securing a clearance from the Indian government as proof that Mehul was single and not listed in any wedding registry.

"It was difficult and time-consuming," Mehul explains, "calling up people, especially for someone like me whose roots [in India] are no longer that strong."

Myla encountered no such difficulties for the Indian ceremony since Hinduism works differently.

"It's a way of life more than an institution," she says. "And Indian families are quite close-knit like Filipinos."

FOR BETTER or for worse, Indian-style

No dowry

Like any proud parents, Mehul's folks turned the wedding into a social event. Firstborn Mehul, after all, is the only boy in the family.

All the couple had to do was show up on the day. Mehul's parents had prepared everything for them—from their daughter-in-law's resplendent wedding *sari* down to the mostly vegetarian buffet. And, no, Myla and her folks didn't cough up an expensive dowry.

"We may have different religious perspectives," says Mehul, "but we share similar morals and values."

After all, being truthful, fair, optimistic and God-fearing transcend religions as well as borders.

And what about polygamy?

"We don't practice it," says Mehul.

"And even if they do," Myla butts in, "I won't allow it."

The couple's experience underscores the importance for couples of diverse faiths, cultures, even backgrounds, to learn about each other's differences before they take the plunge.

"The only way to achieve understanding is through communication," says Mehul. "It's better to talk about them (differences) early on because they're bound to crop up later during the marriage."

He also stresses the need for couples to give each other enough space to return to familiar things—be they food, music, books, clothes and friends.

"We give each other enough time to spend on things that make us unique," says Myla.

She has proven to herself how important this is when they lived for several months with Mehul's parents in the United States.

Since her mother-in-law, a vegetarian, did most of the cooking, Myla, who had just given birth to Manisha, was introduced to exotic Indian dishes—too much of them.

"They were fine for a while," she says, "but it came to a point when I began craving for something familiar."

To his credit, Mehul didn't take offense when his wife took a break from Mama's cooking.

For his part, Mehul has developed a taste for Filipino favorites, relishing fresh *lumpia, ukoy, sinigang, adobo*, seafood and various chicken dishes cooked the Pinoy way. "I draw the line at *balut* and *patis*."

He took the time to learn Tagalog at a local language school. Although speaking is still a struggle, Mehul now knows what's going on around him. No, sir, you can't sell this street-smart "Bombay" anymore.

"Filipinos often talk in the vernacular even in front of foreigners," he says. "I wasn't offended, although it could get quite frustrating. I just don't want to be left in the dark."

And how do they plan to raise little Manisha Isabella? They have tried to strike a balance early on in everything they do, says Mehul, to keep her and their future children well-rounded individuals equally at home with both cultures.

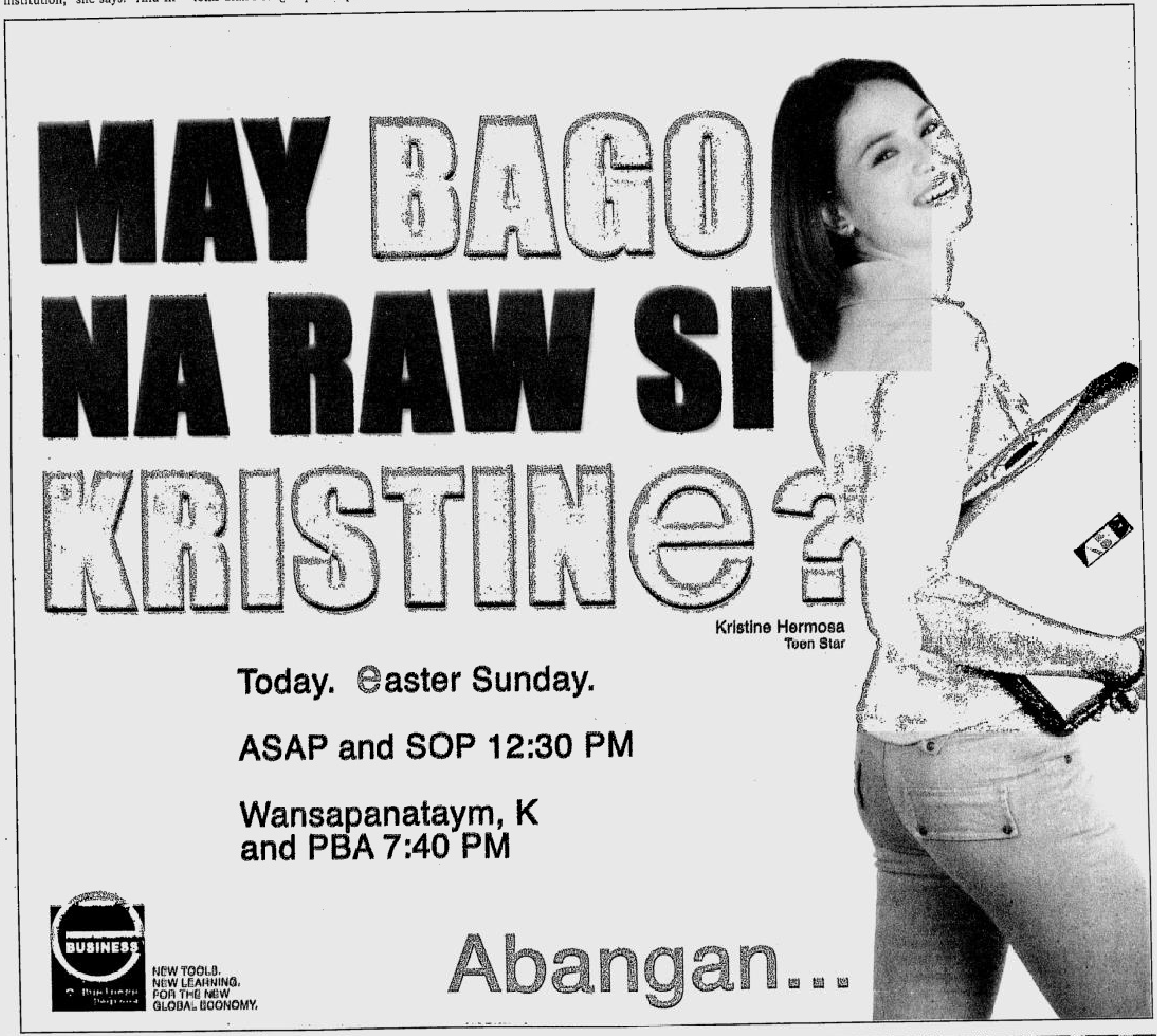
THE COUPLE, with her family, weds in Catholic rites.

THE COUPLE with his family

"It will be up to her what path to pursue, what faith to practice when she becomes a cognitive thinker," he adds. "A lot of us are a mix of different things. Like, I'm the product of all the countries I've lived in. Being exposed to various worlds is something you can turn to your advantage. What counts is what works for you. Our job is to make sure she's comfortable with what she is."

That they have to exert extra effort to expose their children to their respective heritage is a given, says Myla. "Our hope is to be able to raise good human beings who are steeped in knowledge and positive values culled from both cultures."

E-mail the author at avergara @inquirer.com.ph



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A dream comes true in a beautiful church on a hill

THE NEWLYWEDS. Anna Garcia and Rey Jose

Text and photos
by Mandy Navasero
Contributor

WHEN Anna Garcia and Rey Jose decided to tie the knot, they also agreed there was only one place to do it—the Church of the Transfiguration at scenic Caleruega, Batulao in Nasugbu, Batangas. The church stands on a hill and is accessible through a flight of winding steps "where a thousand dreams are born."

The bride floated in a dreamy Paul Cabral design, a takeoff from the wedding gown of the ethereal movie goddess Grace Kelly. Cabral's version consisted of a high-necked, Chinese-inspired bolero worn over a bustier and fitted bodice with layers and layers of soft tulle billowing from the waist.

The more than 500 guests included the couple's relatives and close friends, and the bride's parents' longtime buddies and business associates. The venue for the reception was absolutely romantic—the exclusive, very private and, at night, chilly and mist-filled Tagaytay Highlands, a place Anna and Rey love.

A DREAM/p.H2

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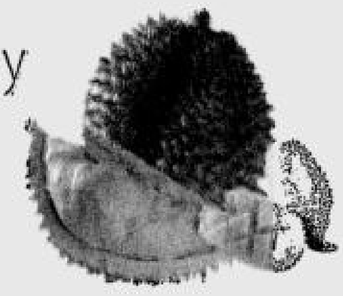
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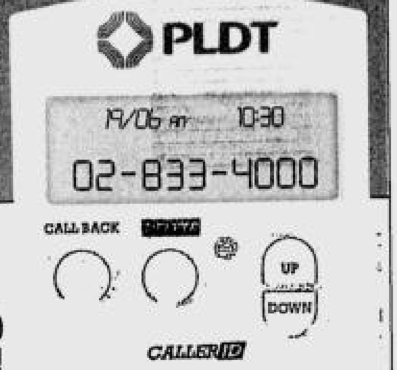

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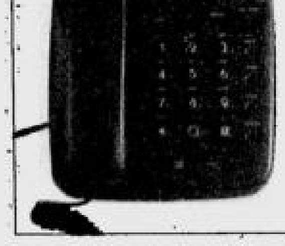
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SOMETHING BLUE. The bride and groom with their principal sponsors

A dream comes true in a beautiful church on a hill

From page H1

The couple met and became friends in 1990. But in July of the same year, Anna, the only daughter of ABS-CBN president Freddie Garcia and his sports-loving wife Gloria (the Garcias have three sons Michael, Richie and Carlo), had to leave for the United States to take up interior.design. Rey graduated from a human resource management course in St. Benilde.

Anna and Rey met again in Baguio a few years later and began going out on group dates until one Valentine's Day when they finally went out by themselves. The relationship became official in 1997, although, like other couples, Anna and Rey also had cooling off periods.

But love endured, and on Feb. 23 they became husband and wife, making their vows before hundreds of people in a ceremony officiated by Msgr. Jerry Santos, formerly of the Ayala Alabang parish.

Asian lauriat

For the reception later, Tagaytay Highlands served an Asian lauriat that included assorted sushi and sashimi, assorted cold cuts, dried scallop in wintermelon soup, prawns in garlic, sweet-and-sour fish fillet, Korean beef stew and Yang Chow fried rice. Guests had fresh fruit platter and *buko pandan* jelly for dessert. Baba Ibazeta and Kat Malvar of Classic Confections created a masterpiece of a wedding cake. The choir, an informal group under Ms Capulong, sang like angels as they serenaded the newlyweds. A violinist played favorite classics for the enthralled crowd at the church and reception.

The bride wore something old and new, something borrowed and blue. The bride's mother bought the pure silver giveaways as favors, thrilling the single young ladies no end.

Then Rey took off Anna's garter and tossed it to lucky Judah Kae Santos, while the bride's bouquet of long-stemmed pink roses was caught by Malu Cabigao who, if superstition is to be believed, would be the next bride. Live prosperity pachica trees were given as wedding mementos. The guests danced to the beat of Sabor Latino, and at midnight, there were fireworks to cap the wedding festivities.

REY hams it up for his Anna.

CHAPEL on a hill

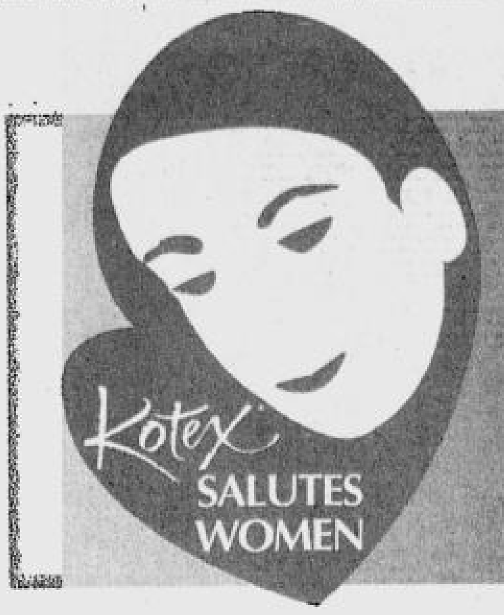
THE COUPLE with the bride's family: Javy, Carlo, Kaye, Mom Gloria, Dad Freddie, Miguel and Richie Garcia

The bride upheld tradition by wearing something old, new, borrowed and blue

THE COUPLE cuts their wedding cake.

THE BRIDAL entourage

BRIDAL party enjoys the fireworks.



The heart of a woman makes the world SPIN!

No Stopping Now.

Women have continuously been breaking barriers and making new ground for present and future generations of women. This year proves to be nothing short of that. Since international Proclamation No. 224 declaring March as Women's Month and Philippine Presidential Proclamation No. 227 declaring March as "Women's Role in History Month", many beautiful things have been opening up for the women of today.

Kimberly-Clark Philippines Inc. (K-CPI), makers of KOTEX® and NEWTEX® Pads and Pantiliners, is a firm believer that women need to be given equal rights and recognition. This is why they continue to give their support to women who are fighting for this cause. They also believe in providing the future generation of women movers, shakers and leaders with the proper knowledge to continue becoming better individuals and citizens. This is achieved through two of their educational programs that cater to women and their needs, "Starting Right!" and "Big Sisters".

K-CPI knows that these are just a start and more can be done, which is why they have teamed up with the Development Institute for Women in Asia-Pacific (DIWA) and the CanSurvive Cancer Society for this year's celebration of Women's Month.

The Development Institute for Women in Asia-Pacific (DIWA) is an organization committed to the development of research and innovative programs, which will expand the range and quality of education and work open to all women. Aside from being a strong educational arm of the Philippine Women's University, DIWA also has a huge network through numerous women's organizations in the country and all throughout the Asia-Pacific region. These common objectives naturally led to the partnership between K-CPI and DIWA. They are both working to better the lives of women today and in the future.

The CanSurvive Cancer Society of the Rizal Medical Center, an affiliate of the Philippine Cancer Society, caters to all kinds of cancer patients by giving moral support, pastoral care and education to include their families and caregivers. This unselfish giving is what drew K-CPI to CanSurvive. Since breast cancer is one of the leading causes of death in women, K-CPI, with the help of CanSurvive, wants to help women understand the importance of regular breast examinations. In this light, K-CPI has launched a sticker campaign wherein K-CPI will give one peso for every purchase of specially marked KOTEX® Pads from March 18 to April 30, 2002.

With this wonderful team-up, women have nothing to lose and everything to gain. Nothing is impossible to achieve for the women of today and tomorrow.

MESSAGES

Development Institute for Women in Asia-Pacific

On behalf of the Philippine Women's University-Development Institute for Women in Asia-Pacific (DIWA), I would like to laud Kimberly-Clark Philippines Inc. (K-CPI) for always being at the forefront of efforts to uplift the status of women in the Philippines.

DIWA believes that Filipino women perform multifaceted roles in society and through their leadership can make the big difference in improving the lives of the family, community and Philippine society. It is inspiring to note that a corporation like K-CPI shares this vision of empowering women in the service of God, country and home. All your initiatives, not only those activities undertaken during Women's Month, are proof of your commitment and service to womanhood. We at PWU-DIWA, hope that you will continue to remain a steadfast partner in providing the Filipino women with enriching educational opportunities, so that we can all have a better tomorrow.

Mabuhay ang Kimberly-Clark Philippines Inc.!
Mabuhay ang kababaihang Pilipino!

Dr. Amelou Benitez-Reyes
PWU-Acting President

CanSurvive
Rizal Medical Center

Access to healthcare has become increasingly available for women in the Philippines and around the world. This, in part, has been made possible through continuous efforts by the public and private sectors as well as non-government organizations to give women avenues to improve their health.

We laud Kimberly-Clark Philippines Inc. (K-CPI) for always being a dependable ally in promoting women's health and concerns. We salute and appreciate K-CPI whose concern for women goes beyond the products they sell and really look after their welfare.

More power to Kimberly-Clark Philippines Inc.!

Romeo M. Cruz, M.D.
Medical Center Chief
Rizal Medical Center

PARTNERSHIPS FOR WOMEN. Kimberly-Clark Philippines Inc. envisions a future where women will be confident and able to enjoy equal rights and opportunities. To achieve such a noble goal is daunting if done alone; thus, K-CPI sought out organizations which shared the same dream. This search led to DIWA or the Development Institute for Women in Asia-Pacific and CanSurvive Cancer Society. Photo at left shows K-CPI Senior Product Manager for Feminine Care, Apple Ting, signing the memorandum of agreement with DIWA's Chairman Dr. Amelou B. Reyes. Standing witness are (from left): Mrs. Lilia Robosa, Philippine Women's University (PWU) Registrar, Ms. Iris Yu, K-CPI Product Manager for Feminine Care, and Dr. Elizabeth Concepcion, Dean - Graduate School, PWU.

FREE PAP SMEAR AND OB-GYN CONSULTATION
A Medical Mission
Newtex

ON A MISSION. Women in rural areas do not have the same access to regular health check-ups as women in the urban areas do. In light of this, Kimberly-Clark Philippines Inc. and the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society (POGS) teamed up to help these women keep their health in check by giving them the chance to consult with ob-gyns and have pap smears free of charge. Photo shows K-CPI's Iris Yu (3rd from left) and Apple Ting (4th from right), the POGS Medical Mission Committee including Dr. Rosendo Roque a POGS Board of Trustees member, (10th from left) and no less than Hagonoy, Bulacan's Mayor Toti Ople (10th from right) after a successful medical mission in this quiet town.

Bulakeñas take advantage of the free pap smears sponsored by POGS and K-CPI in the first of a series of Outreach Medical Missions.

Kotex
CanSurvive

Signing the memorandum of agreement between K-CPI and CanSurvive are (seated L-R) Dr. Bernardita Javier, Rizal Medical Center's Chief for the Medical Professional Staff and Ms. Apple Ting, K-CPI's Senior Product Manager for Feminine Care. Also present during the signing are (standing L-R): Dra. Divina Esteban, Head of the Rizal Medical Center's Tumor Clinic; CanSurvive officers and cancer survivors Norma Gatchalian, Secretary; Constancia Andres, President; Rosalinda Visalda, Vice-President; Nepomucena Oreña, past President; Merla Mangadap, Treasurer; and Iris Yu, K-CPI Product Manager for Feminine Care.

RADIO CHAT. In an effort to help women with issues affecting their lives, K-CPI in cooperation with DIWA hit the airwaves by hosting a series of chat sessions with women counselors. Topics covered were concerns and challenges that women experience at home or in the community daily. Radio chats aired on RX 93.1, Wave 89.1, DZMM and DWRT.

Market Leaders join hands to make Women's Month more meaningful. KOTEX® and NEWTEX® Pads & Pantiliners tied up with Mercury Drug Corporation to provide free obstetrical and gynecological consultations this March in celebration of Women's Month. Apart from enjoying free consultations with ob-gynecologists at selected Mercury Drug outlets, the women also went home with free samples of KOTEX® Pads and KOTEX® Fresh Pantiliners.

More than Just A Helping Hand

Women can achieve much more if only they're given equal opportunities and the proper foundation to help them fulfill their dreams. Kimberly-Clark Philippines Inc. (K-CPI) is such a strong believer in this that they teamed up with the Department of Education (DepEd) and came out with a program that caters to the young women of our country.

Starting Right
FEMININE HYGIENE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM
ANNUAL TRAINING COURSE

"Starting Right!" is a feminine hygiene educational program for the young Filipina that K-CPI and DepEd started back in 1988. The aim of the program is to educate and increase awareness on the importance of proper feminine hygiene and health on the development of grade school female students. The program also aims to help these young women to develop into well rounded members of society who are able to help maintain, if not improve the current way of life.

To date, more than 2,000 teachers and nurses have been trained through the "Starting Right!" Refresher courses for health education. And, thanks to their dedicated effort, over 10 million students in more than 30,000 schools nationwide have benefited from the program.

◆

Realizing teenage girls' need for someone to look up to during the tough adolescent stage, Kimberly-Clark Philippines Inc. decided to team-up with two other personal care giants, Triumph International Philippines Inc. and Splash Manufacturing Corporation to come up with a program geared to the teenage market.

"Big Sisters" is a program that helps high-school girls go through the difficult period of adolescence by addressing their concerns about growing up, including proper feminine care and hygiene. The program is dedicated to giving these young ladies the knowledge and the self-confidence to deal with the changes and help them develop their full potential.

This year, K-CPI is continuing what they started. K-CPI believes that the best way to help these young women is by sharing with them experiences that other women have gone through as they were growing up. The "Big Sisters" program wants to communicate that what they're going through is a natural process that every budding woman goes through.

Since its inception last year, it has been to 15 private schools in a span of five months. This is quite a feat for a program that has just started. Marie Calica, accomplished writer, fashion designer and former PR and communications consultant of The Body Shop kicked off the program with a talk dubbed "A Journey into Maturity". An open forum where Marie Calica, together with company representatives, answered the teenagers feminine concerns followed the talk. "Big Sisters" has shown that the best way to get the message across is to be there to listen and help out young women as they go through an awkward phase in their life. With Kimberly-Clark Philippines Inc., it seems that the future of our country won't just be in the hands of men but also in the hands of very capable and competent women.

Kotex

For a brand whose mandate is to prevent stains from appearing on women's pants and skirts during "that time of the month," KOTEX® has left a strong imprint on women who have put in it their trust and confidence.

KOTEX® found its way to the Philippines in January 1964 when American firm Kimberly-Clark Corporation bought into a local company Hygienic Products, Inc. to become Kimberly-Clark Philippines Inc. (K-CPI). Since then, many Filipino women who have depended on the "pasador" have made the switch to disposable pads for their feminine hygiene needs.

PARANGAL FOR KOTEX®. KOTEX® was cited as the Most Outstanding Feminine Napkin by the National Consumers Council (NCC) during the recently concluded 17th Parangal ng Bayan awarding ceremony held at the Philippine International Convention Center last March 9, 2002. Iris Veronica Yu, Product Manager for Feminine Care, received the recognition on behalf of Kimberly-Clark Philippines Inc. Seen in photo are (from left): Mr. Jonathan Navea, founding Chairman & President of Parangal ng Bayan, Ms. Victoria Dizon, NCC Chairman, Sen. Robert Barbers, Ms. Lily Nicolas, Consumers Union of the Philippines' Secretary General, and Director Willie Schneider, NCC Consultant.

KOTEX® has always been synonymous with innovation. Almost 82 years after the first KOTEX® pad was developed, it continues to innovate by understanding and anticipating the needs of women all over the world. That's one reason why KOTEX® has retained its leadership in the growing but highly competitive market.

In the Philippines today, K-CPI produces two kinds of pads—KOTEX® White* and KOTEX® Pads. KOTEX® White* has a soft dry cover that quickly absorbs fluids and keeps it inside the pad so the wearer continues to feel clean and dry. It also has a unique feature, a combination of all-around channels and a Super-Absorbent Layer which keeps the fluid within the area, thus preventing embarrassing side and back stains.

KOTEX® White* is longer than other pads for extra coverage. The lining has micro-pores and is therefore "breathable," letting air pass through the pad but keeping any fluid inside. KOTEX® White* has a variant for every need possible—Longer Maxi, Longer Slim, Extra Long Maxi and Extra Long Slim. All variants are also available with Wings. KOTEX® Pads, on the other hand, come in a very comfortable cottony cover. KOTEX® Pads has the Blue Safety Zone—all-around channels and a blue Super-Absorbent Layer. It is available in Maxi, Maxi Wing and Overnight.

K-CPI also manufactures KOTEX® Fresh* Breathable Pantiliners—the first and only brand of pantiliners in the Philippines that comes with a full range of breathable variants. Its new packaging designs come in bright, fun and vibrant colors. These all-breathable pantiliners now also come individually packed inside the handy and resealable Purse-Paks* that keep the pantiliners clean while kept in a bag with the other necessities of today's modern woman. KOTEX® Fresh* is also the first and only brand with the 100-percent cotton-cover variant. Other variants are Unscented, Scented, Longer & Wider and Ultra Thin.

Paid Advertorial

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE

PLACE TAPE HERE

PLACE TAPE HERE

LOSER!

PLACE TAPE HERE

PLACE TAPE HERE

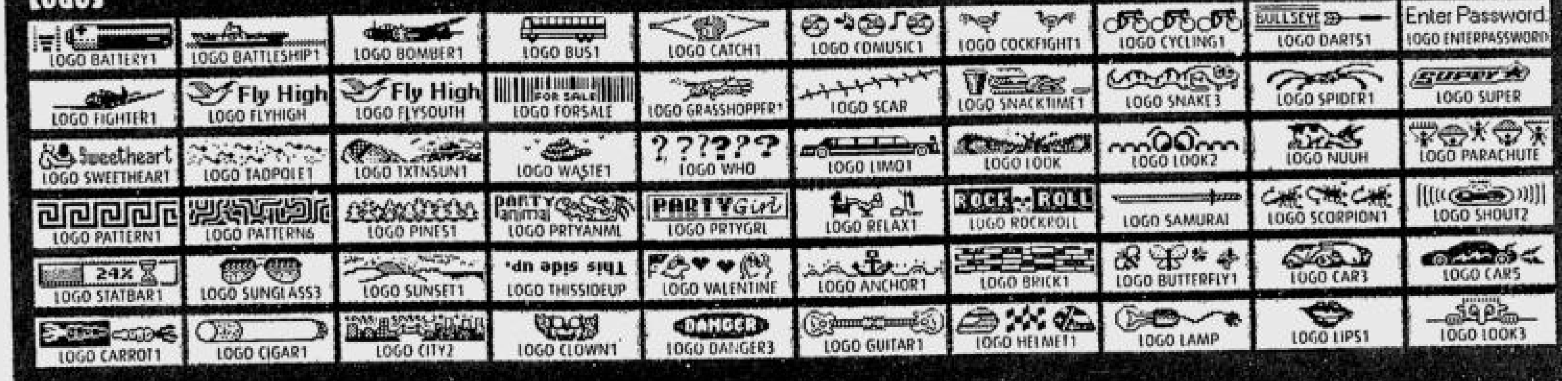
INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE: 1 Cut along the dotted lines. **2** Attach tape as shown. **3** Place on back of most gullible person you know. **4** Observe action from a distance.

We're giving you something better to do this April Fool's Day.

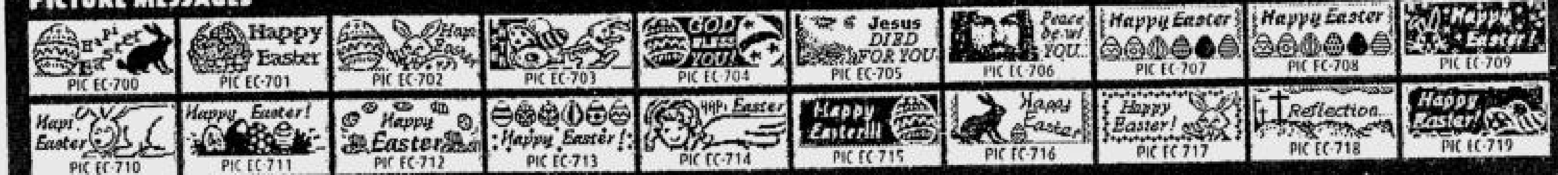
Get more laughs by checking out zed Joke of the Day. Just type in JOKE or choose from our four categories: ANIMAL, SCHOOL, COMPUTER or LOVE. If you think that's funny, wait 'til you get a load of our newest logos, ring tones and picture messages. You'd be a fool to pass these up.

zed

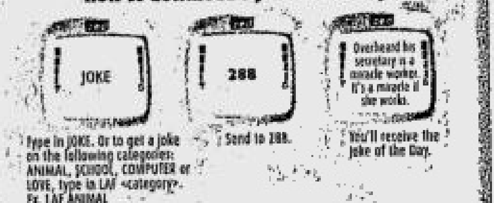
LOGOS


LOGO BATTERY1
LOGO BATTLESHIP1
LOGO BOMBER1
LOGO BUS1
LOGO CATCH1
LOGO COMUSIC1
LOGO COCKFIGHT1
LOGO CYCLING1
BULLSEYE
LOGO DARTS1
Enter Password.
LOGO ENTERPASSWORD
LOGO FIGHTER1
Fly High
LOGO FLYHIGH
Fly High
LOGO FLYSOUTH
FOR SALE
LOGO FORSALE
LOGO GRASSHOPPER1
LOGO SCAR
LOGO SNACKTIME1
LOGO SNAKE3
LOGO SPIDER1
SUPER
LOGO SUPER
Sweetheart
LOGO SWEETHEART
LOGO TADPOLE1
LOGO TXTNSUN1
LOGO WASTE1
??????
LOGO WHO
LOGO LIMO1
LOGO LOOK
LOGO LOOK2
LOGO NUUH
LOGO PARACHUTE
LOGO PATTERN1
LOGO PATTERN6
LOGO PINES1
PARTY animal
LOGO PRTYANML
PARTY Girl
LOGO PRTYGRL
LOGO RELAX1
ROCK ROLL
LOGO ROCKROLL
LOGO SAMURAI
LOGO SCORPION1
LOGO SHOUT2
24%
LOGO STATBAR1
LOGO SUNGLASS3
LOGO SUNSET1
This side up.
LOGO THISSIDEUP
LOGO VALENTINE
LOGO ANCHOR1
LOGO BRICK1
LOGO BUTTERFLY1
LOGO CAR3
LOGO CAR5
LOGO CARROT1
LOGO CIGAR1
LOGO CITY2
LOGO CLOWN1
DANGER
LOGO DANGER3
LOGO GUITAR1
LOGO HELMET1
LOGO LAMP
LOGO LIPS1
LOGO LOOK3

PICTURE MESSAGES


Hapi Easter
PIC EC-700
Happy Easter
PIC EC-701
Hapi Easter
PIC EC-702
PIC EC-703
GOD BLESS YOU
PIC EC-704
Jesus DIED FOR YOU
PIC EC-705
Peace be w/ YOU
PIC EC-706
Happy Easter
PIC EC-707
Happy Easter
PIC EC-708
Happy Easter!
PIC EC-709
Hapi Easter
PIC EC-710
Happy Easter!
PIC EC-711
Happy Easter
PIC EC-712
Happy Easter!
PIC EC-713
Hapi Easter
PIC EC-714
Happy Easter!!!
PIC EC-715
Happy Easter
PIC EC-716
Happy Easter!
PIC EC-717
Reflection...
PIC EC-718
Happy Easter!
PIC EC-719

How to download a Joke of the Day:

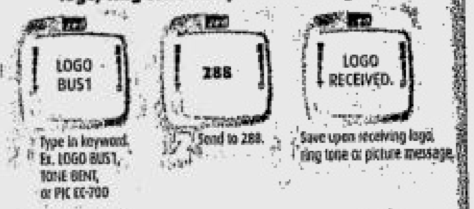

JOKE
288
Overheard his secretary is a miracle worker. It's a miracle if she works.

Type in JOKE. Or to get a joke on the following categories: ANIMAL, SCHOOL, COMPUTER or LOVE, type in LAF <category>. Ex. LAF ANIMAL

Send to 288.

You'll receive the Joke of the Day.

How to download a logo, ring tone and picture message:


LOGO BUS1
288
LOGO RECEIVED.

Type in keyword. Ex. LOGO BUS1, TONE BENT, or PIC EC-700

Send to 288.

Save upon receiving logo, ring tone or picture message.

Available exclusively to SMART Gold, SMART Buddy and Talk 'N Text subscribers for selected Nokia cell phones. ₱15.00 for every successful download of picture messages, logos and ring tones. And ₱2.50 per joke. For keywords of other zed services, type in **KEYS** and send to **288**.

RING TONES

1 In Love *A1* **TONE 1INLOVE** • Celebrate Our Love *A1* **TONE CELEBRATE** • Everytime *A1* **TONE EVERYTIME** • Heaven By Your Side *A1* **TONE HEAVENBY** • I've Got Sunshine *A1* **TONE IVEGOTSUN**
Hang On *Gary Valenciano* **TONE HANGON** • Ang Boyfriend Kong Baduy *Cinderella* **TONE BFBADUY** • Macho Guwapito *Rico Puno* **TONE MACHO** • T.L. Ako Sa Iyo *Cinderella* **TONE TLAKOSAYO**
Hot Shot *Gary Valenciano* **TONE HOTSHOT** • Everything You Want *Vertical Horizon* **TONE EVRYTHNGUWNT** • Perfect Day *Collective Soul* **TONE PERFECTDAY** • Absolutely (Story Of A Girl) *Nine Days* **TONE ABSOLUTELY**
Deep *Binocular* **TONE DEEP** • Bent *Matchbox 20* **TONE BENT** • Take A Picture *Filter* **TONE TAKEAPIC** • Superman *Five For Fighting* **TONE SUPERMANS** • Imitation Of Life *R.E.M.* **TONE IMITATION**
When It's Over *Sugar Ray* **TONE WHENOVER** • Ligaw Tingin *Cinderella* **TONE LIGAWTI** • Special Alert Tone *zed* **TONE SMS** • Connecting To Internet *zed* **TONE MODEM** • Be With You *Ricky Martin* **TONE BWITHYOU**
Smooth *Santana* **TONE SMOOTHSAN** • Love Is All Around *Wet Wet Wet* **TONE FOURWED** • Horny **TONE HORNY** • Lady Marmalade *Christina Aguilera* **TONE MARMALADE**
Incomplete *Sisqo* **TONE INCOMPLETE** • Michelle *Beatles* **TONE MICHELLE**

SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2002 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Weddings Engagements SundayLIFESTYLE

FELY AND HER KIM. Long-distance love affair culminates at the altar.

One of Manila's eligible bachelors takes a bride

Kim Atienza said he knew he wanted to settle down as soon as he met Fely Hung

By Leah Salterio
Photos by Johnny Villena

MANILA 5th District Councilor Kim Atienza took his time choosing his bride. The 35-year-old politician waited until he met the girl of his dreams.

A party animal who was a regular in popular nightspots in town, Kim, one of Manila's most eligible bachelors and the eldest of six children of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and Evelina "Beng" Atienza, was linked to a number of girls, from sexy actresses to pretty socialites.

But when he was introduced by socialite Ana Periquet to Felicia Hung, 32, more than a year ago, Kim was instantly smitten. Confessing it was love at first sight, Kim said he knew he wanted to settle down as soon as he met Fely.

For one year, Kim and Fely maintained a long-distance relationship as she worked in London. She owns Philippine Equity Partners, the local counterpart of Merrill Lynch.

"We would see each other once a month when she visits her customers here," Kim says. "I went to London twice to see her."

The young Atienza said he was drawn to Fely's elegance. "She's like a princess," he says. "I know she's used to men [driving] fancy cars, but she agreed to ride in my Vespa [scooter] and drive around Malate.

"She can look elegant [in] her finest designer clothes [eating] in a London restaurant or even in jeans and white shirt without makeup, [eating] in a shawarma place in Malate," the councilman said.

Last December, Kim proposed to Fely in a very unusual fashion at Casa Armas in Makati City. He hid the ring he was giving her inside a ripe mango, Fely's favorite.

"She said yes even [without] a ring," Kim recalls. "She thought there was no ring, but it was in a mango because she likes mangoes."

During the wedding, Fely, the daughter of Chi-Chuan Hung and Chia-Chu Hung, was a radiant bride in a Rajo Laurel gown. Kim, who wore a barong tagalog by Danilo Franco, was visibly very emotional when his bride walked down the aisle.

"I was having goosebumps as I waited for her at the altar," Kim says. "Fely was a beautiful bride."

Fr. James Reuter, with three other concelebrants, officiated at the wedding ceremony at the San Agustin Church in Intramuros.

Via Mare catered the *al fresco* reception at the nearby Puerto Real Gardens. Hedda Ramos was the wedding planner.

Television host Kris Aquino, a good friend of Kim and his prayer partner on Wednesdays at the Baclaran Church, led the list of principal sponsors, which also included lawyer Katrina Legarda, Henry Sy Jr., Bro. Mike Velarde, Avelina Velarde, Leonardo Uy and Juliana Belen Ticzon-Martel.

Best man was James Lopez, while maid of honor was Rebecca de Villa. Arnold Atienza, Ricardo Montelibano and Rafael Zulueta III were groomsmen and Angela Atienza and Sunshine de Leon were bridesmaids.

Actress Dina Bonnevie was the lector during the wedding mass. ABS-CBN newscaster Karen Davila joined in the offertory.

Robert Seña did a moving version of Andrea Boccelli's "The Prayer," a favorite of the couple, during the ceremony.

The guests consisted of people from show biz—like David Bunevacz and Jessica Rodriguez, Geneva Cruz, Kuh Ledesma and daughter Isabella—politics and the social circle. Kuh's estranged husband, Louie Quirino Gonzales, was there, too.

Manila Councilors Robert Ortega, Larry "Pipoy" Silva, Marjun Isidro and Cita Astals also at

ONE/ p.14

THE COUPLE'S parents Lito and Avelina "Beng" Atienza (left) and Chi-Chuan Hung and Chia-Chu Hung

MSA Summer Academic Advancement Program 2002

March 18 - March 26 (Mon to Sat 4 hrs./session) April 1 - April 19 or April 8 - April 26 (Mon to Fri 2 hrs./session)
April 6 - June 1 (Saturdays only 4 hrs./session) April 8 - May 11 or April 15 - May 18 (3 × a wk 2 hrs./session)

Pre-School
- Reading Readiness
- Reading for Emergent Readers
- Developing Speaking and Writing Skills
- Mathematics for Beginners
- Science for Early Learners

Grade School
- Reading Workshop
- Writing Workshop
- Math for Grades I to VII
- Science

High School
- Algebra
- Geometry
- Trigonometry
- Physics

College
- College Algebra
- Trigonometry
- Math 11 & 17 of UP
- Math 11, 12, 18 & 20 of ATENEO

- **Training** *for* **MATH COMPETITION**
- **MENTAL MATH**

College Entrance Tests Review
for schools like
UP, Ateneo, DLSU, UST
and all other colleges and universities
H.S. Entrance Tests Review
for Philippine Science, Manila Science, Ateneo and all Catholic High Schools

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- Art Appreciation for Children
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Makati venue: **RCBC PLAZA**
Ayala Avenue corner Gil Puyat
April 16 - May 14 (Tues and Thurs 8:30 to 12:30)
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Alabang
South Center Tower
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Filinvest Homes East
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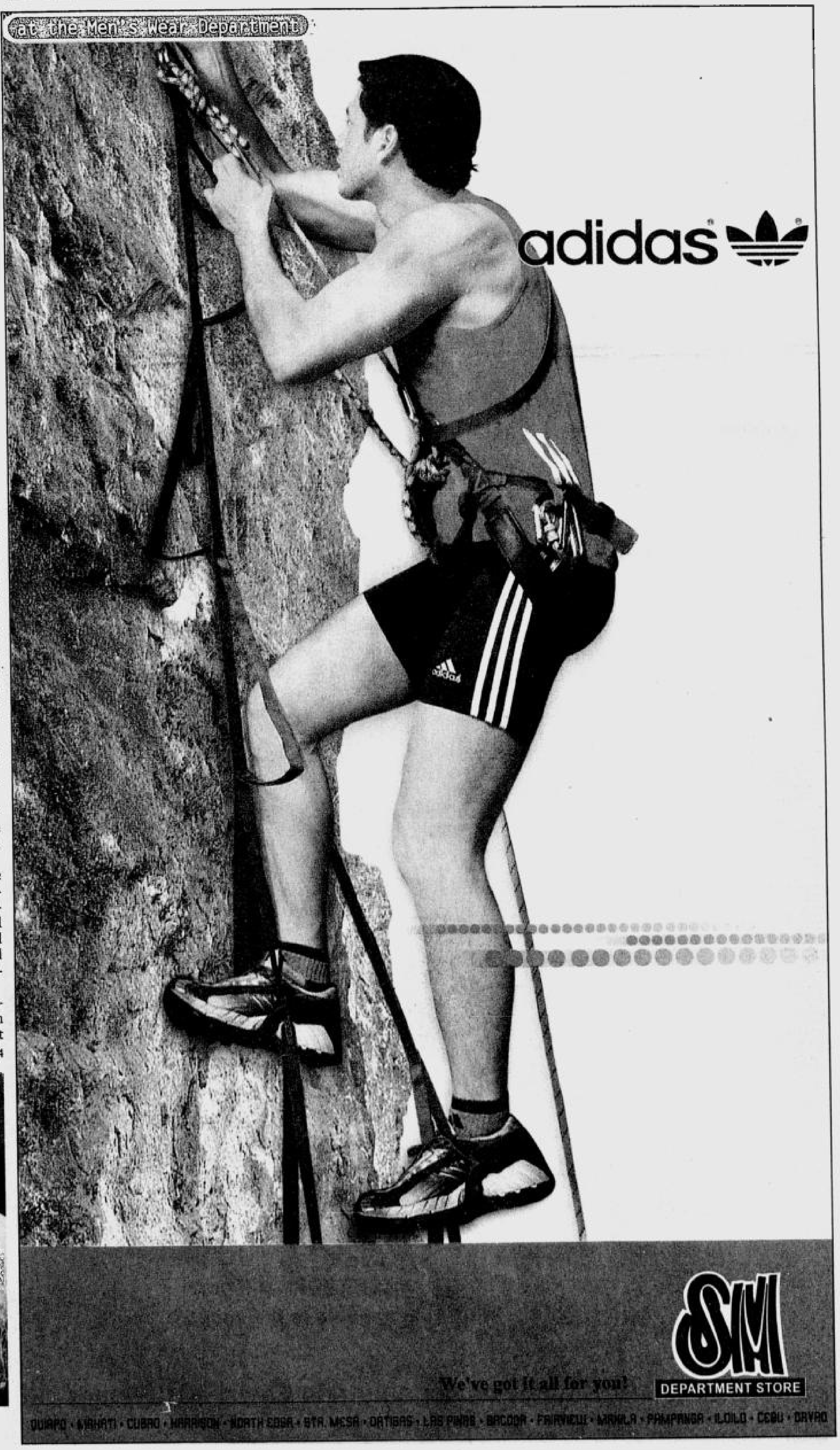

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An invitation to serve God

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I would like to call once again on women who are interested to serve God as Franciscan sisters and live a semi-contemplative life. They may write to Sr. Judith Lorica, OSF, St. Martin de Porres Convent, 6521 Baybay, Leyte.

I'm sending you some booklets, including the revised edition of the biography of Mother Maria Theresa Bonzel, founder of the OSF Sisters, whose beatification has been approved by the Vatican.

Thank you for this and past favors.

EDGAR LOZANO
Regional Trial Court
Macabebe, Pampanga

Thank you for the booklets, the biography and the one titled "Building the Future with the Reign of God in Our Hearts." May I suggest you also send copies to Josie Darang who writes "Purely Personal" for PDI Lifestyle?

What makes me wonder is how you became a bridge to the OSF Sisters in Leyte, when you are in Pampanga. You might be interested to know that in Planas, Porac, Pampanga, the Mother Ignacia Development Center of the RVM Sisters in Katutubo Village offers the Macabuhay ointment, a cure for arthritis. Two RVM Sisters, Sor Adela Moreto and Sor Luz Mercado, gave me a bottle and I find it very effective.

* * *

A mother who works in Taiwan

I have been working in Taiwan as a domestic helper for over a year now. I'm 40 years old and a widow for the past five years. I have eight children. You can imagine how hard it has been for me, sending them all to school. My second child finished his studies and is now working, helping me raise his siblings.

My problem is my eldest child. She's the brightest among my children. Since prep school she has always been on the honor roll. I was so proud of her and expected so much, but love got in the way. She eloped with her boyfriend four months after I left for Taiwan. She was only 21 years old then, not ready for married life. I can't blame her. I left her with mountains of problems, too, gigantic tasks for a girl her age. However, I did not give my consent for her to marry that good-for-nothing bum.

Now she has given birth to a baby boy and she is back with me. The man wants them to be together again but I keep telling my daughter her life will be miserable if she lives with him. She loves him and, of course, I can't do anything if they get back together. Am I right in wanting her to finish her studies and prepare for a bright future for her and her son?

LEO OF NAGCARLAN, LAGUNA

There are many things to consider. If you want her to finish her studies, who will take care of the baby? One of her siblings or a *yaya*? You called the young man a bum. However, he surely has some good qualities or else she would not have fallen in love with him.

Being miles away, your advice and suggestions may just fall on deaf ears. However, let's hope she concentrates on her life now and her future. She has brains, as you said; she was always in the honor roll. The mind and the heart—they sometimes go along parallel lines. If she listens to her heart, she'll reconcile with the father of her son. If she concentrates on her mind and focuses on what she should do, there is a chance she will go back to school.

The father of your grandson might finally realize that he has to face responsibilities as the head of a family, if he wants to live with them.

Keep praying for guidance. Also, keep in touch with all your eight children, writing each one even just a short note to remind them you care for them. Distance can make the heart grow fonder, as they say.

* * *

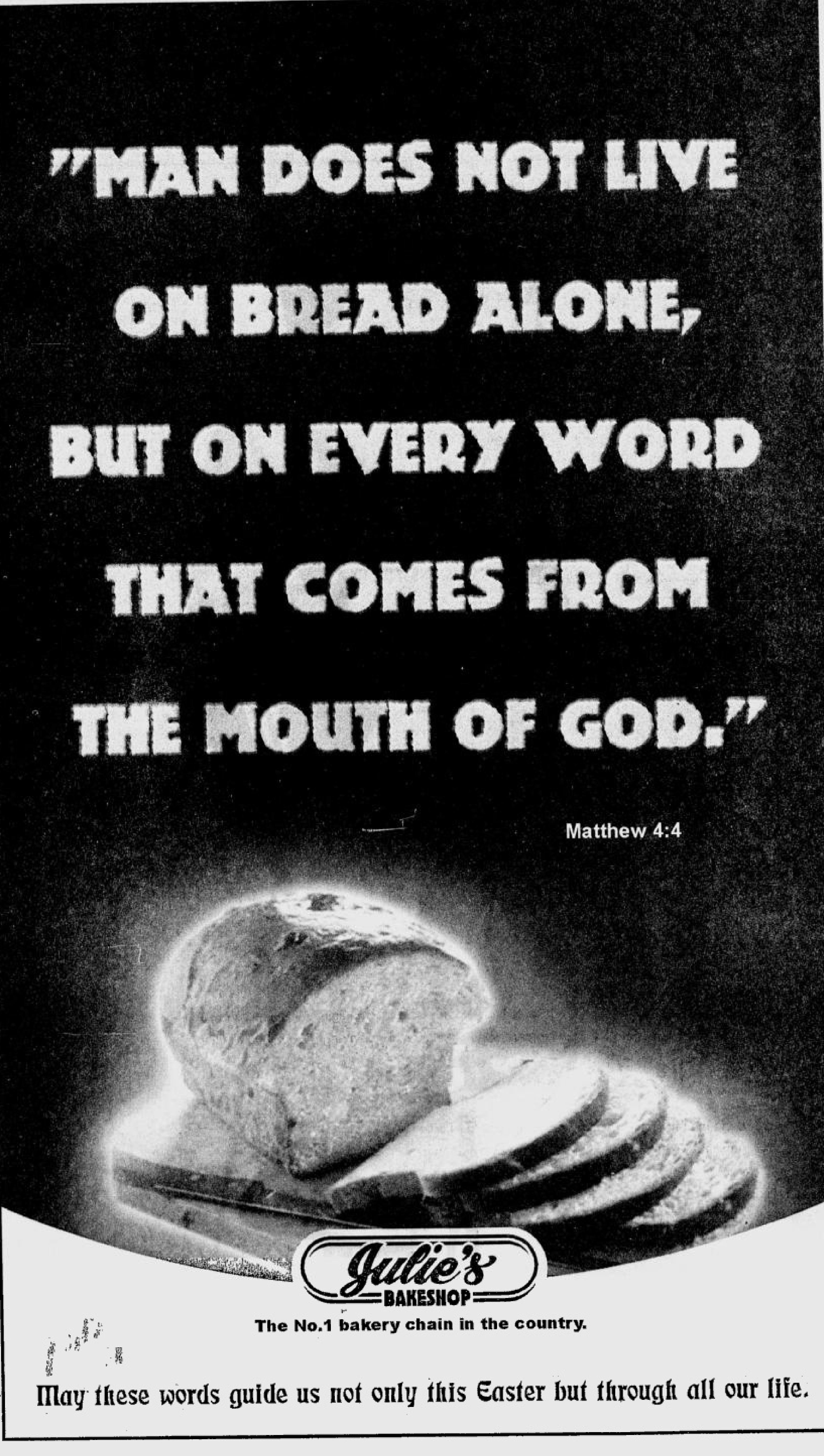
Where to give old rosaries

I just like to ask what to do with and how to properly dispose of used and unwanted rosaries and religious statuettes which have seen better times. I don't think it will be nice and practical to hand them over to a parish church for distribution to others or for giving away because there are only one or two pieces, and they are worn out already. Thank you for your advice.

LOURDES LIM

You can give the old rosaries to Family Rosary Crusade. Their staff will fix them. Their address is Pius XII Catholic Center, United Nations Avenue, Paco, M.M., tel. 521-6953. Regarding the statuettes, you can ask the advice of your parish priest.

E-mail the author at titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City


"MAN DOES NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT COMES FROM THE MOUTH OF GOD."
Matthew 4:4
Julie's BAKESHOP
The No.1 bakery chain in the country.
May these words guide us not only this Easter but through all our life.

Magazine features bridal gowns from top designers

WEDDINGS Magazine's latest issue gives brides-to-be a choice of 40 fabulous gowns by top Filipino designers.

Now available in leading bookstores, newsstands and bridal stores, Weddings has Gina Celso and Carlo Muñoz, a.k.a Grasya and Billy in the phone commercial, on its cover. Engaged couples will surely find helpful articles, such as Wedding Costs: Who Pays for What?, Of Bridal Showers and Pink Umbrellas, Survival Kits for D-Day and Games Couples Play.

Foremost wedding planner Rita Neri explains how to avoid bad wedding gifts while image consultant Delby Bragais reports that it's now acceptable to wear even fire-engine red bridal gowns. Feng shui expert Paloma advises couples where to put the good luck gifts they get. The Catholic Engaged Encounter of the Philippines begins the column "Love Is a Decision."

Weddings is published by Marathon Publishing Co.

Cross-stitch patterns with Lenten theme

DMC, the leader in embroidery threads, introduces its new line of cross-stitch patterns with religious themes in line with the observance of the Lenten season: "The Last Supper" and "La Pieta."

"The Last Supper," a classic rendition, is stitched using the world's finest DMC embroidery floss and adorned with DMC metallic threads. With a large design size of 37" x 16", the piece captures the details and expressions of The Last Supper like never before. The design is perfect for dining rooms. Developed solely for the Philippine market, this design is being exported to other countries as well.

"La Pieta" captures the religious sculpture of Our Lady of Sorrows and Jesus Christ beneath the Cross, which is found at the Notre Dame Church in Paris, France. This uses DMC embroidery floss to create a melancholy sepia effect over black DMC Aida cloth. The design uses only 12 colors and is made for easy stitching.

These patterns are now available at your favorite needlecraft stores nationwide. DMC is exclusively distributed by Focus Global Inc. Call 634-8587.

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May isa nang TANG milyonaryo na nanalo noong March 9, 2002 sa Grand Raffle Draw at may isa pang magiging TANG milyonaryo. Bumili lang ng specially marked TANG KwarTANG-Kwarta packs, tignan lang ang loob ng pack at hanapin ang ₱1,000,000 winning match at baka ikaw na ang susunod na TANG milyonaryo.

Milyon-milyon pang cash prizes ang ipamimigay ng TANG!

Marami nang nanalo at marami pang pwedeng manalo dahil may over 4,000 instant cash prizes pa ang naghihintay sa iyo. Magmadali at bumili ng TANG KwarTANG-Kwarta packs, humanap ng winning match at i-claim ang inyong instant cash prizes sa pinakamalapit na Bank of the Philippine Islands branch sa inyong lugar.

Promo extended up to April 30, 2002.

Tulad ng mga Grand Raffle Draw winners, pwede pa rin kayong manalo ng malalaking cash prizes mula sa TANG:

₱1 MILLION WINNER	₱100,000 WINNER
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WIN ₱1 MILLION
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P50,000
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P50,000
P100,000
KWARTANG KWARTA
INSTANT WIN & RAFFLE PROMO

Per DOH-BFAD permit number 0640, s. 2001

One of Manila's eligible bachelors takes a bride

A BEAMING Mayor Atienza watches as his eldest son Kim takes a bride.

From page 11

tended. Ortega, who came with his pretty girlfriend Corinna, is rumored to be making the trip to the altar next year.

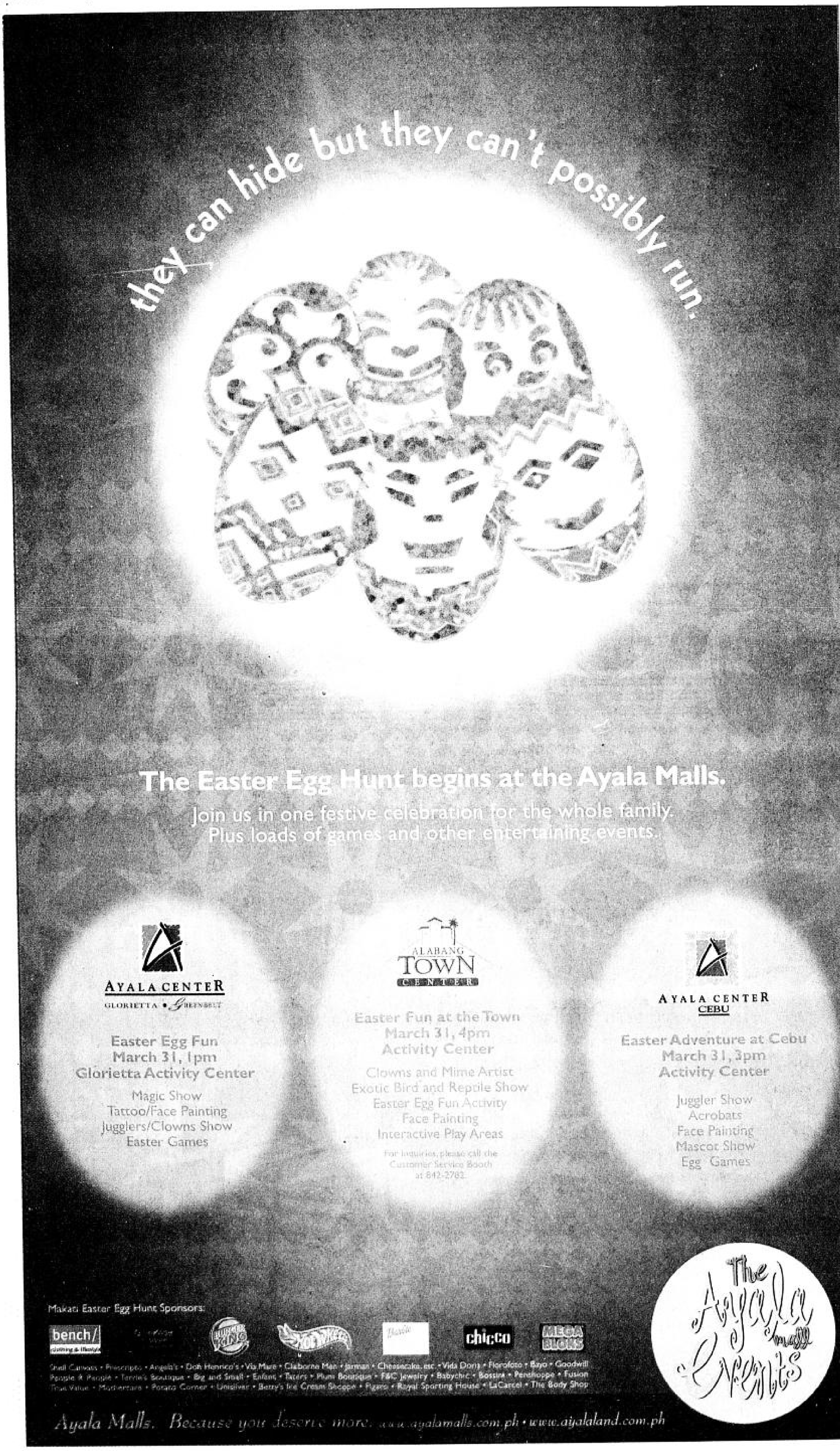
Top politicians included Senate President Franklin Drilon, Interior Secretary Joey Lina and chair Ben Abalos of the Metro Manila Development Authority.

Instead of the usual wedding routines, such as the cutting of the cake or a toast to the newlyweds, people close to the couple gave heartwarming speeches.

Kim and Fely later received a nuptial blessing at the Holy Family Parish Church in San Andres Bukid, which was followed by a street luncheon reception for the councilor's constituents in the 5th District.

Kim and Fely spent their honeymoon in the Maldives.

KIM gives his wife a kiss.



they can hide but they can't possibly run.

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Jugglers/Clowns Show
Easter Games

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

Easter Fun at the Town
March 31, 4pm
Activity Center

Clowns and Mime Artist
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Easter Egg Fun Activity
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CEBU

Easter Adventure at Cebu
March 31, 3pm
Activity Center

Juggler Show
Acrobats
Face Painting
Mascot Show
Egg Games

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PRINCIPAL sponsors Kris Aquino and George Go (above); lawyer Katrina Legarda and Henry Sy Jr. (below)

FATHER of the groom Manila Mayor Lito Atienza (left) chats with guests Secretary Joey Lina and Sen. Franklin Drilon.

ABS-CBN newscaster Karen Davila (center) flanked by friend Irena Carpo and designer Frederick Peralta.

IN A HUDDLE. Metro Manila Development Authority chair Ben Abalos (left) with Manila councilors led by Robert Ortega (second from right)

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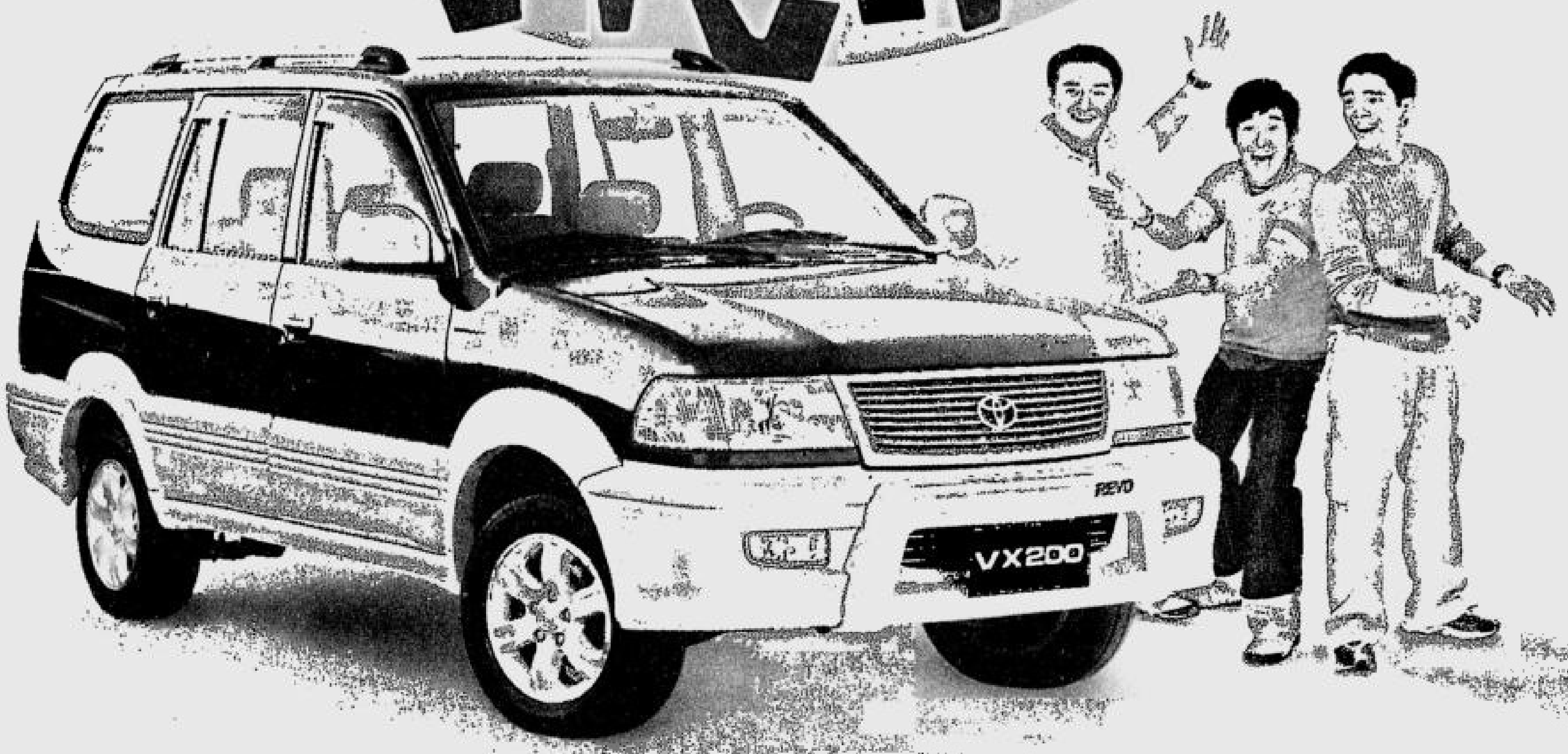

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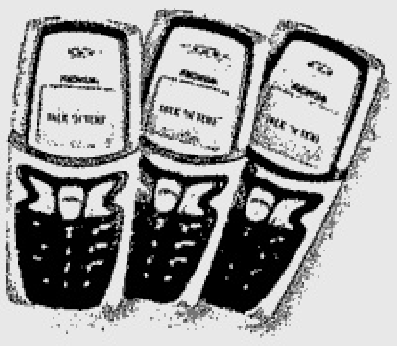
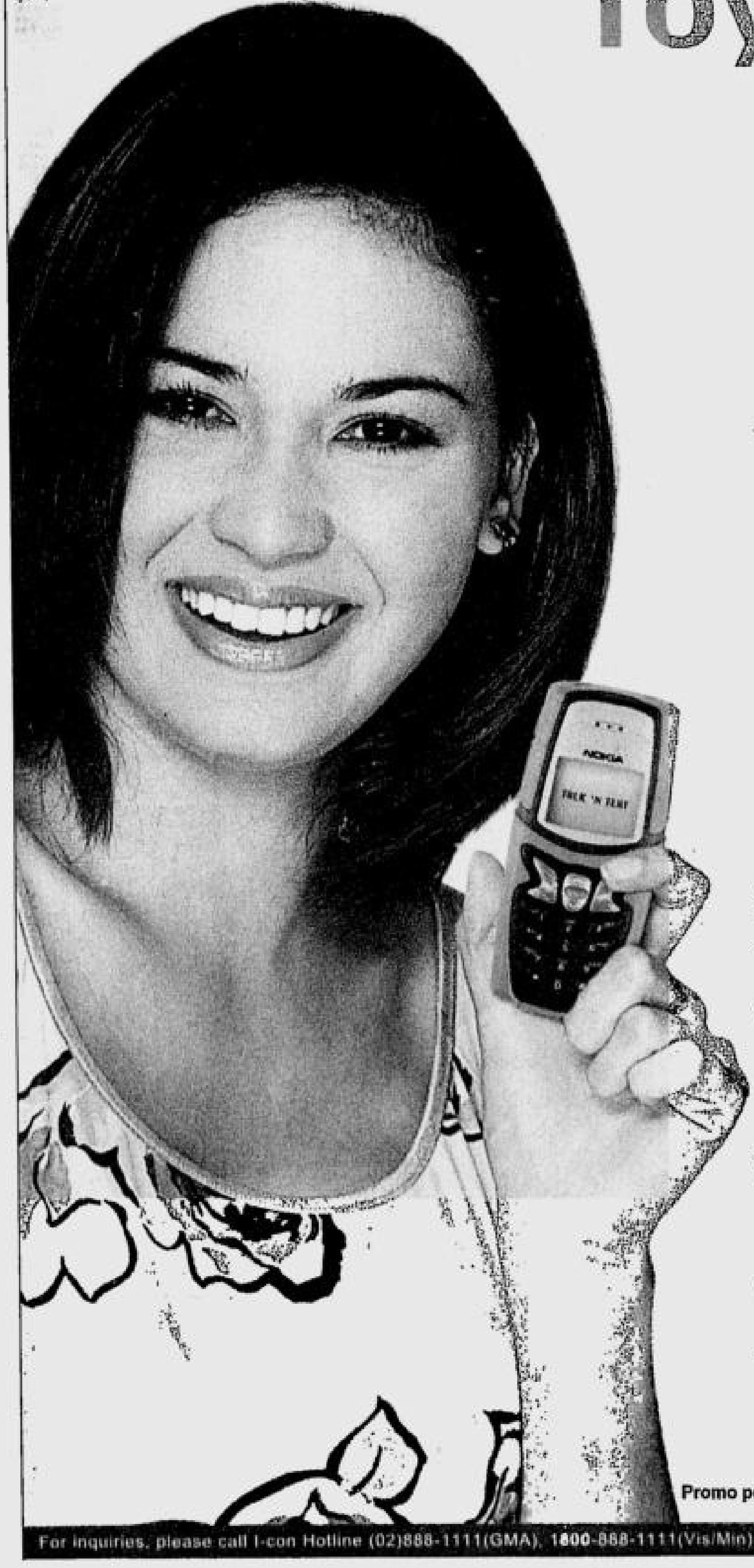


Or ang trip mong
Nokia 5210
Every day!



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- * Daily draw is from April 1-June 30, 2002.
- * Weekly draw is from April 9 - July 2, 2002.
- * Grand draw is on July 9, 2002.

** With 3 days, 2 nights hotel accomodation and $200 pocket money.

Per DTI -NCR Permit No 0533. Series of 2002

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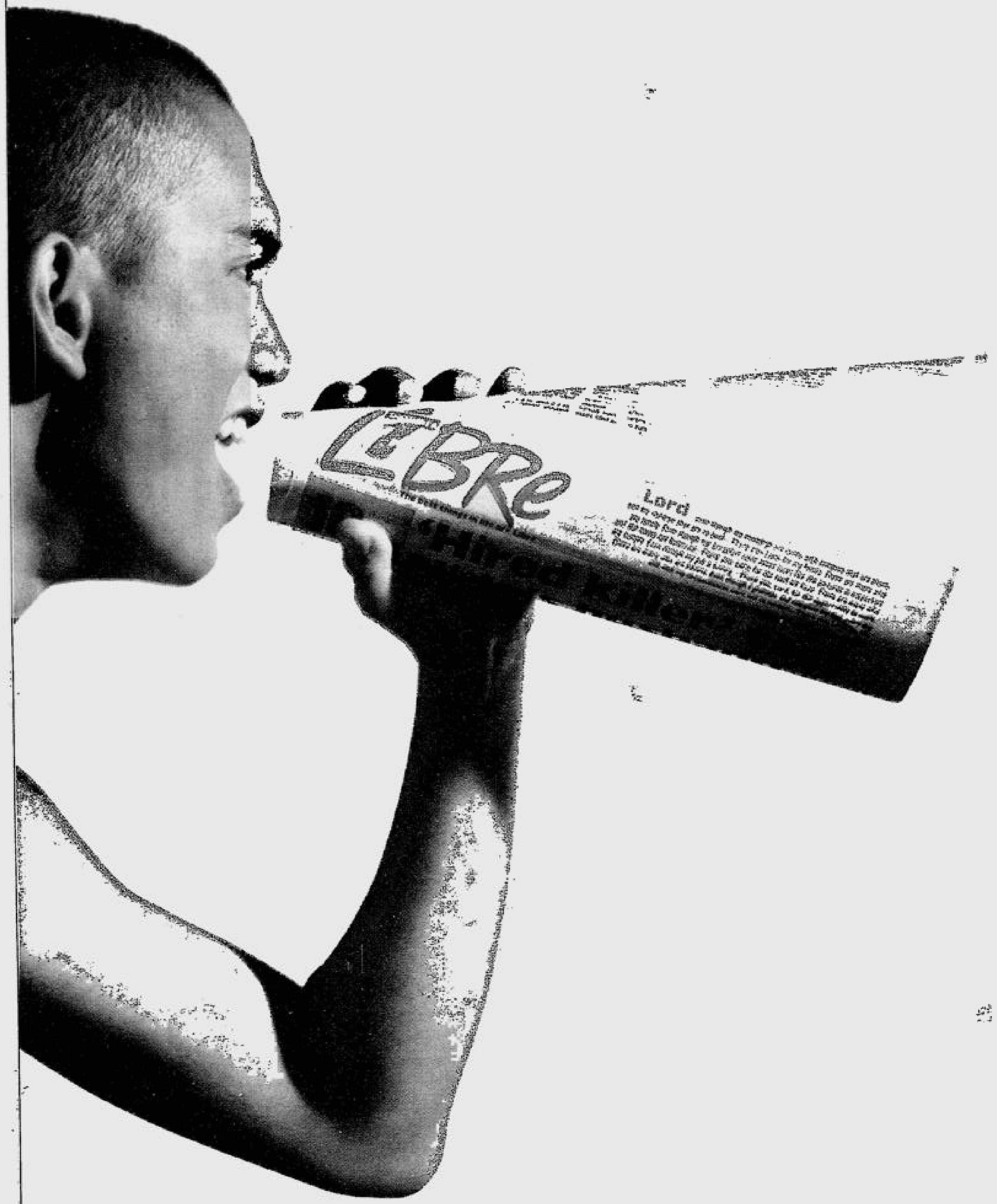

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Milestones

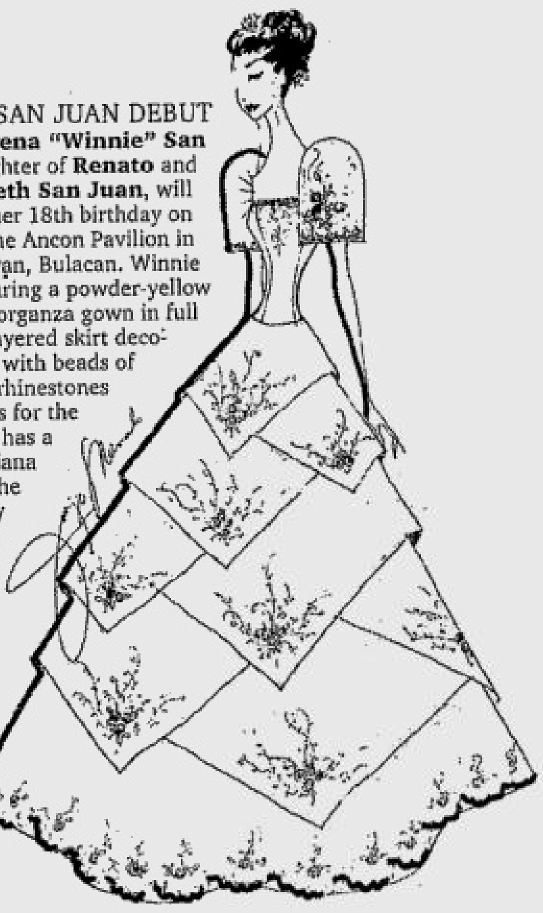
We are accepting announcements of weddings, engagements and debuts. Send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple at least one month before the wedding at the PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

LUNA-JAVELLANA

Cristy Javellana and **Lito Luna** tied the knot recently at the Christ the King Parish, Greenmeadow, QC. Reception was held at Shangri-La Edsa Plaza. The newlyweds with their mothers, **Lucresia B. Javellana** and Dr. **Lilia Luna**.

ARBATIN-LAZARO

Gene Fontanilla Arbatin and **Abigail Ramirez Lazaro** exchanged marital vows on Feb. 23, at the Basilica Concepcion Manila. A grand dinner followed at the Quezon Ballroom of Makati Shangri-La Manila. **Rajo Laurel** provided the bride and the entourage with Blueberry and Lavender ensemble.



SAN JUAN DEBUT

Rowena "Winnie" San Juan, daughter of **Renato** and **Elizabeth San Juan**, will celebrate her 18th birthday on April 6 at the Ancon Pavilion in Meycauayan, Bulacan. Winnie will be wearing a powder-yellow frosted organza gown in full balloon-layered skirt decorated with beads of crystals, rhinestones and sequins for the party, which has a Filipiniana theme. The gown is by **Jojo Manalo**.

MANALAYSAY-PINEDA

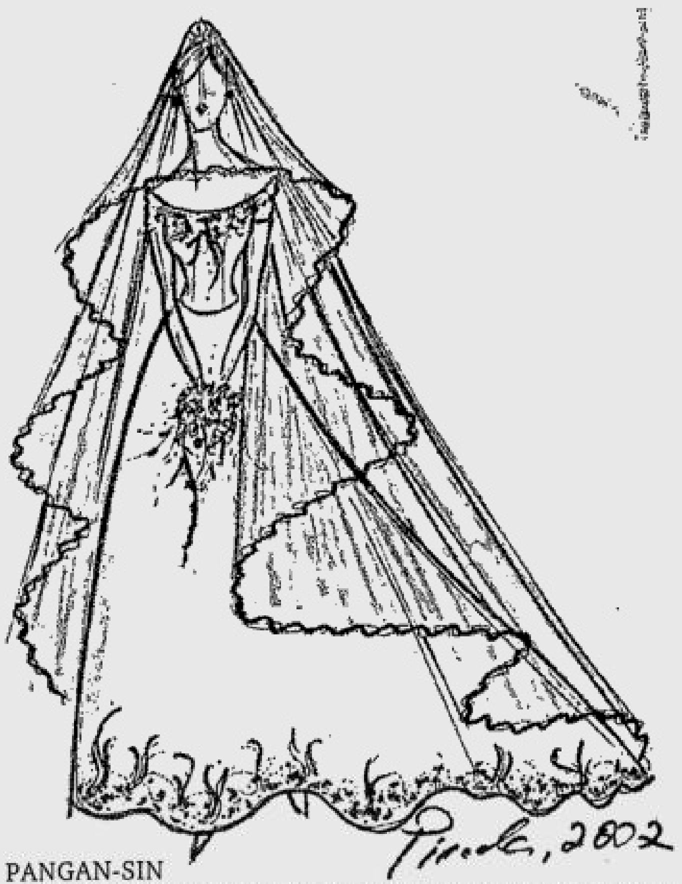
Michael Joseph Cachuela Manalaysay wed **Ma. Cheriza Lacerna Pineda** on March 16 at the Manila Cathedral. The couple wore creations by **Nono Palmos**. Reception was held at The Manila Hotel.

UNSON-TAGAZA

Roy Unson, son of **Patricio** and **Leonora Unson**, wed **Jonnah Tagaza**, daughter of **Francisco** and **Teresita Tagaza**, on Jan. 9 at the Archbishop's Palace, Villa San Miguel, Mandaluyong City. The bride wore a cream Italian satin halter princess-cut gown with salt beads and nacre pearls, while the entourage wore lilac shantung and organza creations by designers **Jontie** and **Nicky Martinez** of Galatea.

VIVAS-DE JESUS

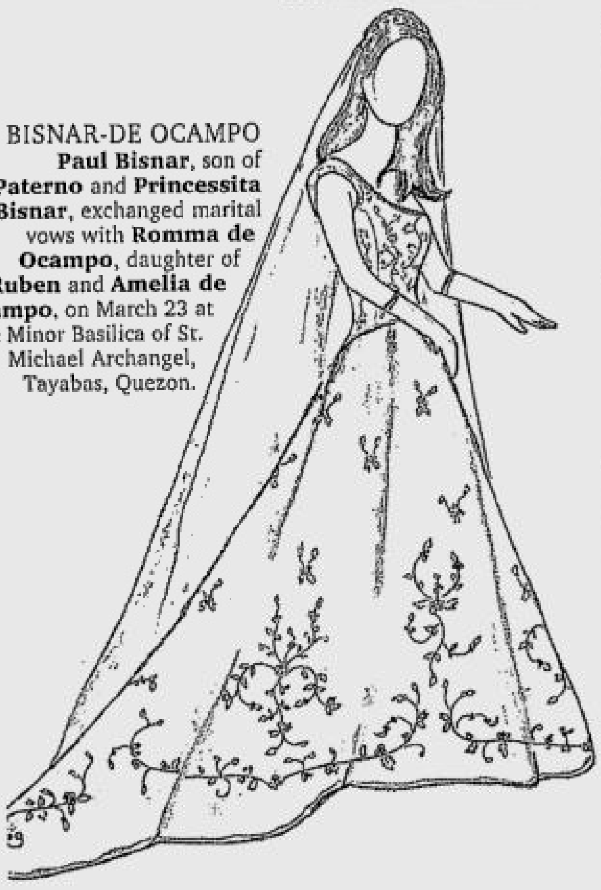
Warren Joseph Vivas, son of Mr. and Ms **Ruben Vivas**, and **Mary Jennifer "Jendee" de Jesus**, daughter of Dr. and Ms **Rogelio de Jesus**, exchanged vows recently at the San Sebastian Cathedral, Lipa City. Reception was held at Club Victorina, Base View Homes. **John Martinez** designed the halter-cut bridal gown that featured intricate beadwork and embroidery.



PANGAN-SIN

Edrian Pangan, son of Mr. and Ms **Edgardo Pangan**, married **Angelina Sin**, daughter of **Leonica Rafael vda. de Sin**, on March 17 at the Dambana ng Ina ng Laging Saklolo, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija. Reception was held at the Guadalajara Ballroom, La Parilla Hotel.

Eric Pineda designed the bridal gown in ivory Italian satin. The corset bodice had an off-shoulder neckline traced with faux pearls, caviar beads and flat sequins. The pattern was repeated on the hem of the cathedral skirt. A long veil of illusion tulle was held in place by a tiara of Austrian rhinestones.



BISNAR-DE OCAMPO

Paul Bisnar, son of **Paterno** and **Princessita Bisnar**, exchanged marital vows with **Romma de Ocampo**, daughter of **Ruben** and **Amelia de Ocampo**, on March 23 at the Minor Basilica of St. Michael Archangel, Tayabas, Quezon.

POTENCIANO-PUNZALAN

Dr. **John A. Potenciano**, son of **Julian Potenciano** and **Consuelo Algas**, wed **Michelle C. Punzalan**, daughter of the late **Carlos Punzalan** and **Teresita Cruz**, on Sept. 8 at the Christ the King Parish, Greenmeadows, QC. Reception followed at the Greenmeadows Village Clubhouse.

CRUZ DEBUT

Monica Aurora Lumaque Cruz, daughter of the late engineer **Romeo Valencia Cruz** and **Ma. Aurora Lumaque Cruz**, celebrated her 18th birthday on Feb. 3 at the Rizal Ballroom, Makati Shangri-La Hotel. The debutante is a first year college student at the De La Salle University Manila, taking up liacom and majoring in political science and business management. **Eric Pablo** of The Entourage handled the production and program for the event. The debutante wore gowns designed by **Schick**.

PASION-LIMOSENERO

Ely L. Pasion and **Copa L. Limosenero** will be married today in ceremonies to be officiated by Rev. **Delbert Hooge** at the grand ballroom of Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati City. Celebrating with them are their children **Theresa Jardine**, **Carina Sandeen**, **Malou Ericksen**, **Maila Pasion**, **Rommel Pasion**, **Earl Limosenero** and **Joan Limosenero**.

TEE-LIM

Rowena Lim, youngest daughter of **Raul** and **Ludivina Lim**, tied the knot with **Marlo Raphael B. Tee**, eldest son of **Mario** and **May Belen Bautista Tee**, on Jan. 5 at the Our Lady of Purification Church, Santa Maria, Zamboanga City. Reception followed at the Celebrity Hall of Grand Astoria Hotel.

Long-distance romance leads to altar

ERICK and Ian aglow.

ERICK Nepomuceno and Ian Racoma met as students at De La Salle University, but the sparks did not fly then.

It was only when they met again after graduation at the Bank of Tokyo in Makati, where they both worked, that they started to feel mutual attraction.

When Erick joined the Standard Chartered Bank and Ian went to the United States to work with the Washington Mutual Bank in California, a long-distance love affair developed. The sweethearts would see each other only during Christmas when Ian came home for the holidays, or when Erick visited Ian in the US during the summer break. In June 2000, during one of his trips to California, Erick finally proposed.

On Dec. 1, Erick, son of Titus and Linda Nepomuceno, married Ian, daughter of Naz and Jessie Racoma, at the Cathedral of San Sebastian. Msgr. Nico Bautista officiated the Mass. The bride wore an elegant gown by Patrice Ramos-Diaz while Randy Ortiz did the groom's barong tagalog.

Reception followed at the Quezon Ballroom, Makati Shangri-La Hotel. Tony Rodriguez did the flowers at the church and hotel, while Patrick Uy took photographs of the couple's unforgettable experience. The strings ensemble of Bernie Pasamba provided the music. Coordinating the event was Chiqui Samson.

Principal sponsors were William Cu Unjieng, Zenaida Nolido, Rudolfo Bacani, Teresita Uy, Antonio Ortiga, Amelita Co, Eduardo Florendo, Concepcion dela Serna, Angel Racoma, Ofelia Balmaseda, Vivencio Abano, Sylvia Pascual, Charles Lim and Maria Carmen Juco.

The newlyweds honeymooned in Fairways and Bluewater Resort, Boracay and Shangri-La Hotel, Bangkok.

THE NEWLYWEDS with their parents

Wedding expo offers special treat for brides

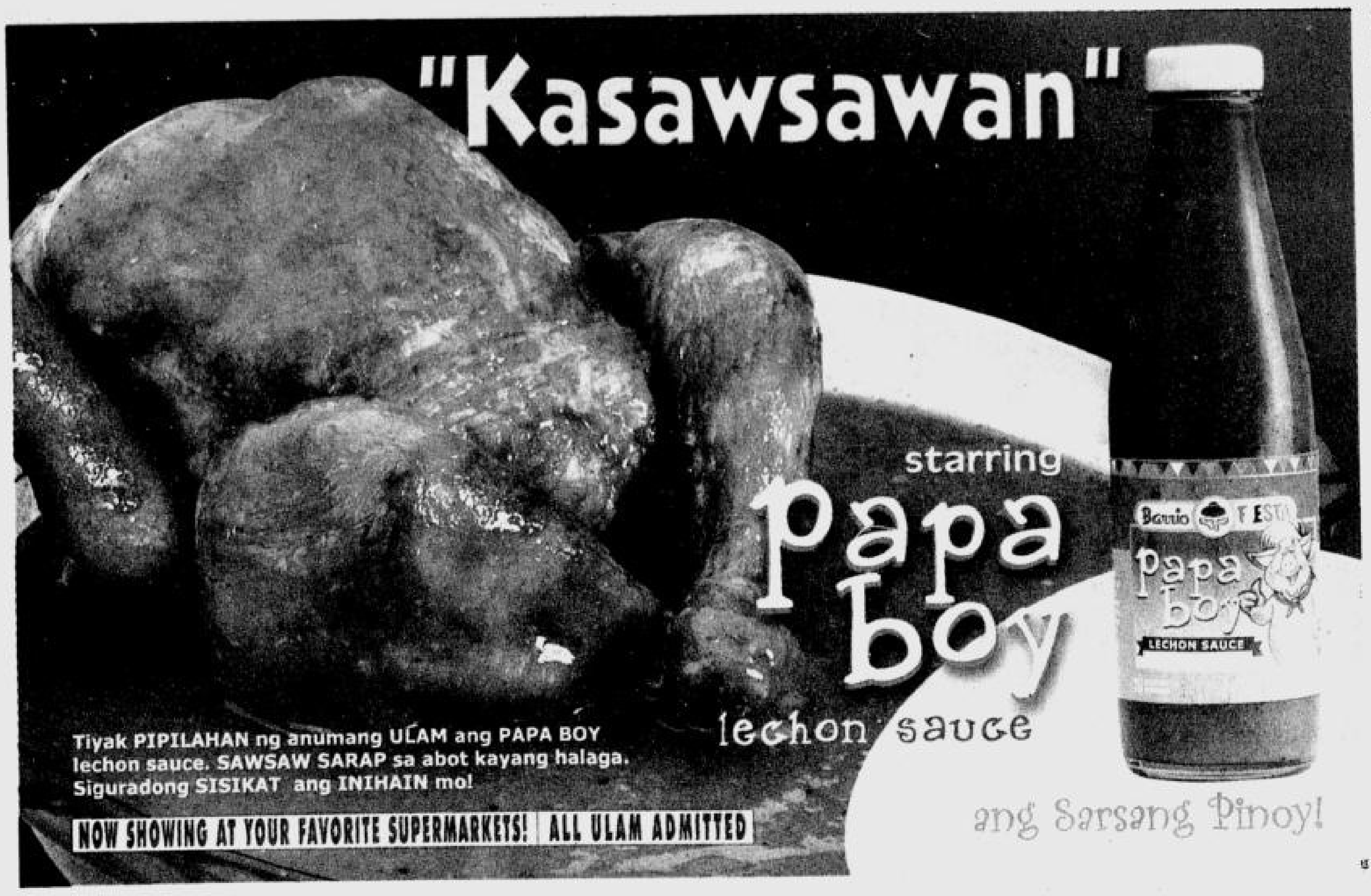
COUPLES planning for their weddings can pick up ideas for hassle-free preparations at the Wedding Expo Philippines to be held April 6-7 at the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio.

The Heritage Hotel Manila, expo presenter, is offering a special treat for couples—a free shower party for every Heritage wedding package between April 6 and June 30.

The wedding dates need not fall within the promo period, but couples have to confirm that they are availing of the package during the promo period to get this offer. The free shower party is available with every wedding package that starts from P94,000 (first 100 guests).

Included in the Heritage wedding package are two-tiered fondant cake, ice carving centerpiece, decorated cage with doves, floral centerpiece for the presidential table, floral centerpiece for each round table, leatherette guest book, bottle of champagne, Mercedes-Benz bridal car (three hours only), place cards for the presidential table, menu cards (for set menus), discounts for standard drinks (guaranteed orders only).

The newlyweds are also entitled to a complimentary overnight stay in an executive suite with buffet breakfast, free use of swimming pool and gym facilities. Call 854-8888.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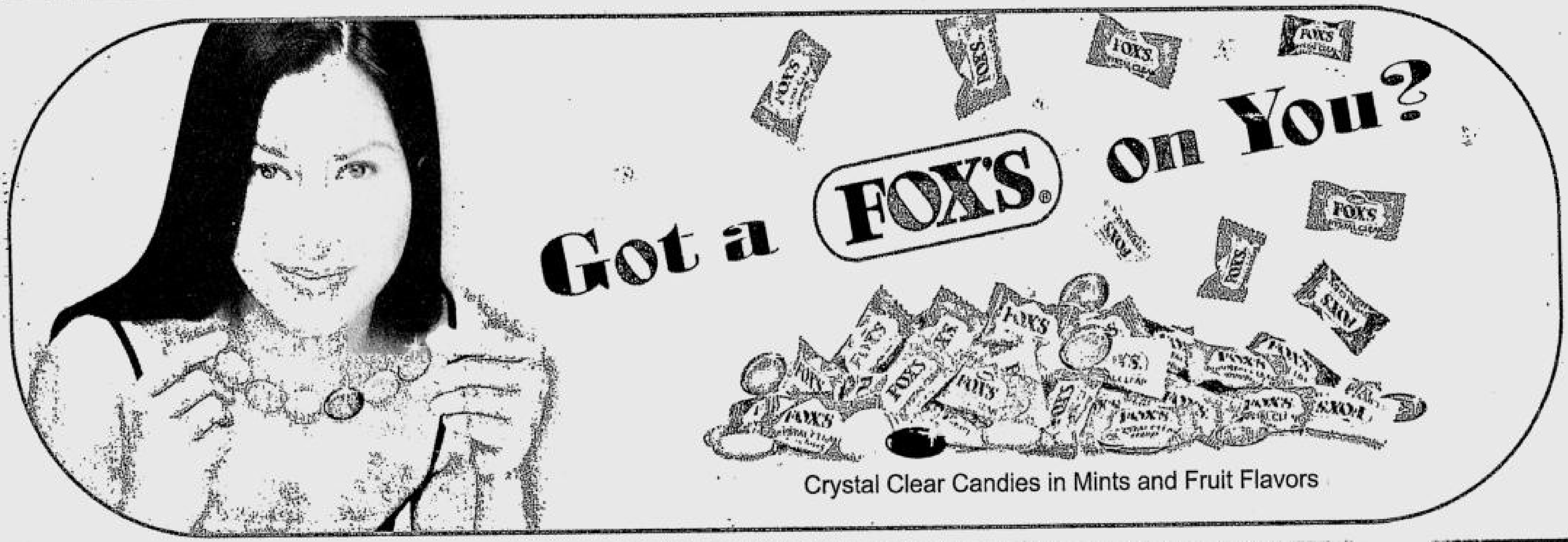
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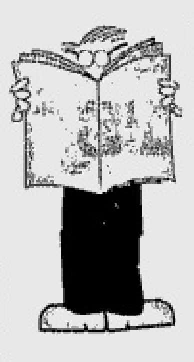

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I. Collaborative Programming

A. Conceptualization and implementation

1. Conduct researchers and studies on policy topics that will support collaborative programmes, including collecting, surfing, organizing and processing of data, statistics, and other information relevant to UN Country Team initiative.
2. Prepare reports and presentation materials; provide inputs to draft TORS for various activities/ consultants; maintains files of the UNDAF Working Groups; assist in resource mobilization activities for joint UN programmes.
3. Prepare logistics and relevant information (discussion points, activity profiles; backgrounders and briefing kits; filed reports) for collaborative activities and missions; review reports and documents concerning the progress of collaborative programmes, providing comments as necessary; monitor project progress, determine bottlenecks and recommend alternative courses of management action to the Resident Coordinator Advisor.
4. Prepare appropriate inputs to the various reports/publications of the Resident Coordinator's Office, including the RC annual report, preparation of the regular RC newsletter; and other reports required by the Resident Coordinator and Headquarters.

B. Advocacy, Networking and Liaison Work

1. Establish and maintain liaison with staff at a working level of other UN agencies, project management and various government offices, NGOs, people organization on activities related to the work of the unit.
2. Provide secretariat and coordination services for consultants recruited for specific UN Country Team projects and activities.
3. Supervise development, implementation of UN media plans and activities, in close consultation with UNIC.

C. Information Management

1. Keep Advisor informed of working group meetings.
2. Maintain master record of working group minutes with emphasis on TORS and work plans
3. Ensure that the UN website in the Philippines is updated and popularized.

II. Administrative and Finance Support to the Office of the Resident Coordinator

1. Provide secretarial assistance to the Office of Advisor, Programme Support to the Resident Coordinator.
2. Maintain database and network of contacts with government/donor organizations, civil society and other institution.
3. Prepare the budget for key events and related financial documentation
4. Provide support for contract and financial management.
5. In the absence of the RC Advisor, represent the unit in meetings and conferences and undertake appropriate actions to facilitate continued operations of the unit.

Job Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in the fields of social sciences or public or private management/administration or development studies
- At least 6 years job experience in any development or policy-making or executing institution. Job should include research and event/project organizing experience.
- Good command of English, both oral and written; ability to write clearly and concisely and to be verbally articulate
- Computer literate (windows-based programs and applications)

Duration - Initial appointment will be for a period of six (6) months with possible extension.

Gross Salary Rate: Minimum of P34,000.00 per month and maximum of P39,000.00 per month. The selected candidate will receive a salary depending on his/her background and work experience.

Applicants are requested to complete P.11 form, available on our website www.undp.org.ph (click on UNDP Philippines>Jobs) and send to hrd.ph@undp.org on or before 12 APRIL 2002. Kindly note that only completed P11 form will be reviewed.

This international organization is an equal opportunity employer and invites Filipino national to apply for the post.

Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi

A PREMIER JAPANESE BANK

is inviting you to be part of its continuous business expansion in the Philippines. Take this opportunity to build a career in an organization that values stability and security.

ACCOUNT OFFICER

- ➢ Will report directly to the VP and Head of Corporate Banking Department No. 3
- ➢ Will be responsible in ensuring efficient account management, developing business with new clients, increasing business volume with existing clients, monitoring credit condition of clients and maintaining quality of credit portfolio.
- ➢ With background in credit analysis and corporate banking in a commercial bank.

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT
OPERATIONS STAFF
TRADING ASSISTANT

- ➢ New graduates of Business, Finance and Accounting courses from reputable schools with above average scholastic records.
- ➢ A CPA license for Accounting graduates is an advantage.

Qualified applicants may send their curriculum vitaé
and a covering letter through e-mail:

btm_hrd@philcom.com.ph

(Only shortlisted candidates will be notified. Previous applicants need not apply.)

Are you up for the challenge?

Global Sources leads the field in creating and facilitating global trade between buyers and suppliers. We provide worldwide trading partners with the right information, at the right time, in the right format.

Our winning team of 1,800 people worldwide is skilled, tech-savvy and thrives in a dynamic, cross-cultural environment. If this sounds like you, then we are currently looking for:

Principal Business Analyst

We are seeking a professional analyst to lead the Business Requirement Analysis (BRA) team. Tasked with establishing a partnership with business units. The successful candidate will add value in the definition, analysis and translation of business requirements into technical solutions and facilitate the development of methodologies and standards and closely support senior management.

Candidates should possess a relevant university degree and at least 5 years experience in business interface role with online web and technology related projects. Additional important experience will include exposure to application and business workflows in a multicultural environment.

Chinese Language Artist

You will encode Chinese characters for advertisements. We require fluency in reading and writing Simplified and Traditional Chinese. Good spoken English. familiarity with computer graphics software programs in a Macintosh environment are also essential. You will be a hands-on starter who enjoys a fast paced work place.

A competitive remuneration package and a truly challenging, international and dynamic work environment awaits the right candidates. Interested parties should send their resume and contact details to any of the following:

Corporate Human Resources
online: career.globalsources.com
e-mail: asmhr@globalsources.com
fax: (632) 892-4087
post: P.O. Box 4597, MCPO, Makati City

global sources
www.globalsources.com

GeoSpatial Solutions

BEYOND SPATIAL INTELLIGENCE
Www.geospatial.com.ph

Meet interesting people. Learn about the latest in information systems and geospatial technologies. Be part of an innovative development team and a progressive information technology (IT) firm that prides itself in providing quality service and products to its clients. Apply to GeoSpatial Solutions, TODAY!

Individuals who are creative, have excellent communication skills and have gained at least 1.5 years of relevant experience in the development of information systems may apply for the following positions:

SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR
WEB PROGRAMMER
SYSTEMS ANALYST
VB PROGRAMMER

Individuals who are proficient in the geosciences and / have adequate educational and professional experience in the development of geographic information systems (GIS) may apply for the following positions:

CAD OPERATOR
GIS ANALYST
GIS TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

Individuals who have excellent oral and written communication skills and have at least 2 years experience in the marketing and development of information Systems, and corporate financial management, preferably CPA, may apply for the following positions:

MARKETING MANAGER
FINANCE MANAGER

Individuals who have noteworthy educational as well as professional background and experience in the field of business may apply for the following positions:

HR ASSISTANT
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
RECEPTIONIST
ACCOUNTING STAFF
ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR
MARKETING ASSISTANT

WE WELCOME FRESH GRADUATES!

Personally apply at 3102-C East Tower, PSE Ctr. (Tektite Towers), Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City or send your resume to hr@geospatial.com.ph. Only qualified applicants will be called for an interview.

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100 RN's Needed
Employment based Immigrant Visa for USA:

Minimum Salary US$25/hr

PETITIONER WILL PAY:

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Philippines 1100
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Fax: (632) 411-8931
E-mail: mbbcons@nsclub.net
Look for: Rubie / Yolly

Canada:
8 Park Vista Drive Suite 501
Toronto, Ontario
M4B 1A3
Tel: (416) 615-1649
Fax: (416) 466-8129
E-mail: mbcorpus@yahoo.com

Are you up for the challenge?

Global Sources leads the field in creating and facilitating global trade between buyers and suppliers. We provide worldwide trading partners with the right information, at the right time, in the right format.

Our winning team of 1,800 people worldwide is skilled, tech-savvy and thrives in a dynamic, cross-cultural environment. If this sounds like you, then we are currently looking for:

Training Officer

You will develop, implement and monitor traditional and distance learning programs. The position requires 3 years hands-on training experience preferably gained in a web-based environment, exceptional communication and presentation skills. Strong people skills with the ability to deliver timely results and a relevant university degree are also required.

Technical Documentation Officer

You will be responsible for document writing and assist in the development of templates and standards required for project documentation. Ideally the candidate must have a proven track record in journalism, specializing in technical writing, or 2 years of comparable work experience. Those with first class English communication skills, a keen eye for details and a relevant degree will have a distinct advantage.

A competitive remuneration package and a truly challenging, international and dynamic work environment awaits the right candidates. Interested parties should send their resume and contact details to any of the following:

Corporate Human Resources
online: career.globalsources.com
e-mail: asmhr@globalsources.com
fax: (632) 892-4087
post: P.O. Box 4597, MCPO, Makati City

global sources
www.globalsources.com

The **Transnational Diversified Group (TDG)** is a Philippine-based conglomerate of dynamic and forward-looking corporations engaged in widely diverse businesses such as Total Logistics, Transportation, Shipping & Cargo Forwarding, Warehousing & Distribution, Ship Management, Maritime E-Training, Medical Services, Travel & Tour, Airline GSA, Aviation Services, Pre-Need Plans, Food Service and Franchising, Securities & Investments, Real Estate Development, IT & Business Process Outsourcing Services, E-Business Solutions, and related businesses.

CORPORATE PLANNING OFFICER

Candidates must be graduates of Business Management, Economics, Marketing or Finance, between 24 to 35 years old; with at least 3 years experience in the preparation of project feasibility studies and in market research, planning and analysis. Those with strategic planning experience will have an advantage.

All candidates must have strong communication, presentation and interpersonal skills and must be computer literate.

Attractive compensation packages, group life insurance, a healthcare program, training and scholarship programs awaits successful candidates.

Interested applicants are requested to submit their comprehensive resumés with 2 recent ID photos on or before 12 April 2002 to:

HRD OFFICE, TRANSNATIONAL DIVERSIFIED GROUP, INC.
2/F Mary Bachrach Building, 25th cor. A.C. Delgado Sts., Port Area, Manila
Beside the Manila Hotel
E-mail: hrd@tdgworld.com
Telephone Nos. 527-8888 or 527-5306

FE Global Electronics Pte Ltd is a leader in the electronics components distribution market with regional offices in 11 countries within the Asia Pacific Region. Due to our fast expansion, we are seeking high-calibre individuals for:

1. SALES ENGINEER / SALES EXECUTIVE

- Degree in Electronics Engineering or related fields
- 1-3 years sales experience in electronics components sales
- Team player with good communication skills
- Positive attitude with good charisma and drive to succeed
- Owns personal car is an advantage

2. INSIDE SALES EXECUTIVE / CUSTOMER SERVICE REP.

- Degree in Marketing or related fields
- Experience in customer service is an advantage
- Computer literate is a must
- Pleasant personality with positive work attitude

Competitive remuneration package will be offered to successful candidates. If you meet our requirements, please send a detailed resume and recent photo to:

FE GLOBAL ELECTRONICS PTE LTD
Room 705 PSBank Building
Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City

FE GLOBAL ELECTRONICS
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Be a NEXTEL Business Partner and earn as much as P400,000 a month!

NEXTEL Communications Philippines Inc. (NCPI) is the country's biggest trunk radio operator, presently operating a full-service iDEN (integrated Digital Enhanced Network) network covering Metro Manila and industrial corridors of Central and Southern Luzon.

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ATTEND OUR BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY SEMINAR AT
Function Rm. B, 5th Level, Megatrade Hall, Building B
SM Megamall, EDSA, Mandaluyong City
April 4, 2002 • 10:00 am -2:00 pm or 2:00 - 6:00 pm

For details, please call:
786-2000
locs. 4051/ 4083/ 4064

MOTOROLA
NEXTEL
NEXTEL Communications Philippines, Inc.

PLATINUM PLANS PHIL., INC.

Send your resume in MS Word or Text format by email to executive_search@platinumplans.com (or) all_aces@platinumplans.com fax it to 6363696. You may also call 634-6411 to 15 for a confidential discussion or text us at 0919-4513487. Alternatively, you can send your resume by postal mail with your latest photo or visit us at 1603 East Tektite Tower, Philippine Stock Exchange, Pasig.

CORPORATE LEGAL COUNSEL

Acts as the company lawyer on all legal matters; formulates and implements corporate legal strategies and acts as litigant for the company.

- A graduate of a reputable university with at least two (2) years litigation experience.
- Adept in representing the company for court hearings and drafting contracts
- Preferably familiar with pre-need or insurance operations
- With above average oral and written communication skills

TASCO, INC.

distributor of Imported Oils, Tires & Tiles and authorized distributor of MARIWASA, SMT and TOTO products, seeks:

SALES REPRESENTATIVES - Interiors

(Annual Income - P110,500.00 + Commission)

- Male, 21 to 28 years old;
- Degree holder in Architecture, Interior Design, Engineering or related course;
- Proficient in both written and oral English;
- Computer literate;
- Honest and hardworking.

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT (Annual Income - P109,000.00)

- Female, 25 to 35 years old; College graduate;
- Proficient in written/oral communication, computer literate;
- Honest and hardworking;
- Experience in Accounts Payable is a must.

JUNIOR AUDITOR (Annual Income - P136,000.00)

- CPA, female, at least 23 years old;
- With at least 3 years work experience from auditing firm or as an internal auditor;
- Analytical and have good communication skills both in oral and written;
- Can design and install audit systems, policies and procedures.

BILLING CLERK

- Female, 21 to 25 years old;
- College graduate;
- Proficient in both written and oral English;
- Computer literate;
- Honest and hardworking;
- Experience in invoicing is an advantage.

Send your resumé or come to:

No. 70, 20th Avenue, Murphy, Cubao, Quezon City
E-mail: mbc_tasco@philwebinc.com or ralozano@oceanisle.net.ph

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PEAC needs:

2 FINANCE ASSISTANTS

- Good communication skills
- Proficient in Microsoft Excel & Word
- Accounting major, Preferably CPA
- Experience is an advantage
- Male or Female, not more than 27 years old, preferably single

Please hand-carry your resumé with recent 2x2 picture and school transcript of records on April 01, 2002 at **PACIFIC EAST ASIA CARGO AIRLINES, INC.** at 2nd floor International Cargo Terminal Bldg., NAIA Complex Pasay City.

Your connection to better people, better jobs.

JOBMarket ONLINE
www.jobmarketonline.com

Come and join our fast growing organization as we are in an urgent need of the following personnel:

Assistant Supervisors (for production and maintenance)

- Male/Female at least 20-35 years old
- Graduate of any Engineering course
- With at least 6 months of supervisory work experience
- Aggressive, analytical and assertive
- Knowledge in machine operation for wooden product

Office Personnel

- Male/Female between 20-27 years old
- Graduate of Computer Science or any computer related course
- Knowledge in Auto Cad is an advantage
- With experience in office work, people oriented
- Can work on extended hours

MIS Technician

- Graduate of B.S. Computer Science, or Computer Engineering
- Male/Female between 21-27 years of age
- Client oriented
- Knowledgeable in Win NT/98, TCP/IP, PBX, PC troubleshooting (Hardware and Software)
- With six months experience in the following:
  - server/LAN Admin-Telephone Technician - Data Communication

Company Nurse

- Female between 20-27 years old
- Experience in Industrial setting is an advantage
- Must be registered nurse
- People oriented and can work on extended hours

Production Based

Truck Head Driver (urgent hiring)

- Male at least 30 to 40 years of age
- High school or Vocational course (related in auto mechanic)
- Experience in Driving Truck Head
- Skills in Heavy Equipment Mechanic
- With Professional Driver's License (R Code - 6 & 3, 2, 1)

Forklift Operator (urgent hiring)

- At least High School, Vocational, College level
- Male between 20-27 years old
- With 6 months experience in forklift operation
- With Professional Driver's License
- Good moral character

Maintenance Staff (urgent hiring)

- Male between 20-27 years old
- Vocational or College graduate
- At least 1 year experience as electrician, mechanic, welder
- Can read electrical diagram symbol
- Must be familiar in manufacturing machine trouble
- Knowledge in compressor repair
- Knowledge in AVR control

Production Operator (urgent hiring)

- High School, Vocational or College level
- Male between 20-27 years old
- Well built and able body
- Good moral character

PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY

SCAD Services(S) Pte., Ltd.

ROSARIO, CAVITE

You can mail or hand carry your comprehensive resumé with 2x2 picture and transcript of records at the above address. For inquiries, call telephone no. (046) 437-2486 or 437-0849. Look for Christian, Christy, Wella or Richard or you can e-mail your resumé a hrd_scad@pacific.net.ph (No attachment)

Rustan Marketing Corporation

Brand Managers

- Male or Female between 26-35 years old
- Minimum of 2 years experience in product management and development of consumer products in a managerial capacity
- Degree in Business, preferably Marketing or Economics, an MBA degree or units is an advantage
- Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality, impeccable integrity and good moral character
- Must be computer literate

Corporate Sales Manager

- Male or Female, 25-35 years old
- Graduate of a 4-year business related course
- Preferably with experience in a direct/retail selling environment
- Preferably with experience in distributing consumer products
- Creative and with excellent communication skills
- Must possess a pleasing, aggressive and dynamic personality

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO SEND IMMEDIATELY THEIR COMPREHENSIVE RESUMÉ, TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS AND A RECENT 2X2 PHOTO TO:

Rustan Marketing Corporation
c/o Executive Administration
Ground Floor Midland Buendia Building
403 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City

(We will reply to qualified applicants only)

MSI DIGILAND (PHILS.), INC.

Great Products.
Great Services.
Great People.

Link-up with the one that hones your expertise.

We are in the forefront of IT distribution fueled by a team of [illegible] dynamic professionals.

We share the benefits of Information technology to our target markets and value customer relationship. We take pride in our work and strive to excel in our competencies.

We are a subsidiary of Digiland International Ltd., a leading IT distribution network based in Singapore and with offices in Australia, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, India, Vietnam, Taiwan, Indonesia, HongKong and the Philippines.

Join us and experience our edge where technologies and opportunities fill our path.

ASSISTANT SALES & MARKETING MANAGER

- Male/female, not more than 30 years old, Chinese-speaking
- Graduate of Engineering, Business or Marketing
- With 2 years managerial experience handling sales & marketing operations gained from reputable IT firms
- Imbued with excellent interpersonal skills and leadership ability

PRODUCT MANAGERS (PC, UPS, Commodity)

- Male/female, not more than 30 years old
- Graduate of Engineering, Business or Marketing
- With at least 2 years solid product management experience obtained from the IT industry
- With good business acumen, excellent communication and people-handling skills

SALES OFFICERS

- Male/female, not more than 30 years old
- Graduate of Engineering, Business or Marketing
- With at least 1 year IT sales experience
- Possesses exceptional communication skills, confident and goal-oriented

PRODUCT ENGINEERS

- Male/female, not more than 30 years old
- Graduate of ECE or Computer Engineering
- With technical expertise in PC and server technology, Lotus Notes and/or Windows NT
- With excellent verbal and writing skills, service-oriented, highly confident

TELESALES ASSISTANT

- Female, not more than 30 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year course
  With at least 6 months telemarketing experience
- Articulate and computer-literate

HUMAN RESOURCES ASSISTANT

- Male/female, not more than 30 years old
- Graduate of AB/BS Psychology, Behavioral Science or Human Resources Management
- With at least 1 year experience in recruitment & selection, job evaluation, performance management
- Possesses excellent formal communication skills, confident and efficient

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

- Male/female, not more than 30 years old
- Graduate of BS Accountancy
- With at least 1 year experience performing general accounting functions
- Computer literate and detail-oriented

RECEPTIONIST/TELEPHONE OPERATOR

- Female, not more than 30 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year course
- With good english communication skills, computer-literate

Interested parties may send their letter of application and comprehensive resume' with colored photo to:

THE HR MANAGER
MSI-Digiland (Phils.), Inc.
Topy II Building, 3 Economia Street, Libis, Quezon City 1110
Fax: (02)638-4938 • E-mail: dphr@msi-digiland.com.ph • Website: www.msi-digiland.com

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SONY TREND MICRO ViewSonic CalComp MICROSTAR 3M Quanta SAMSUNG proxima

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TECHNICAL TRAINING ASST. MANAGER

- Graduate of Industrial Engineering or Behavioral Science/Psychology
- At least two years Asst. Manager experience or four years Supervisory experience in similar capacity
- Computer literate
- Excellent interpersonal & communication skills
- Can design, develop and conduct training programs
- Male or Female
- Age limit is 35

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

- At least 3-5 years similar experience preferably in a multinational company reporting to a senior executive
- Graduate of a 4-year course, preferably in Management or Administration
- Possesses leadership qualities and the ability to deal with all levels in the organization
- With pleasing personality and excellent communication skills
- Must be proficient in Windows applications
- Female, age limit is 35

ENGINEERING GRADUATES BATCH 2002

- Graduates of Electronics & Communications, Computer, Mechanical, Electrical, Industrial, and Chemical Engineering
- Should possess leadership qualities, teamwork, and are hardworking
- Male or Female
- Age limit is 23

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS ASSISTANT

- Graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science or Business Administration
- Good interpersonal and communication skills
- Must be willing to work on shifts
- Must be proficient in Windows applications
- Male, age limit is 23

HRD ASSISTANTS

- Will be assigned in training and background investigation
- Graduates of Psychology or Behavioral Science
- At least 1 year related experience preferred
- Must be proficient in Windows applications
- Male or female, age limit is 24

ISO 9002 ISO 14001

FUJITSU

Fujitsu Computer Products is a leading manufacturer of hard disk drives and magneto-resistive heads. After almost six years of commercial operations, we now have 7,000 employees. We were awarded by PEZA as Best Employer Hall of Fame by being Best Employer for the years 1997 to 1999. Successful candidates will be based in Canlubang, Laguna. Shuttle buses to and from the site are available even for Metro Manila residents. Please send your resumes to: The Assistant Vice President, HRD & General Affairs Department, Fujitsu Computer Products Corporation of the Philippines, SEPZ, Carmelray Industrial Park, Canlubang, Calamba, Laguna, or email to: lgarcia@fcpp.fujitsu.com. *You may also apply personally in business attire, every M-W-F at 9 AM.*

URGENTLY NEEDED!

(38) JUNIOR MANAGERS

(14) SUPERVISORS

(24) ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

- GRADUATES OF ANY COURSE
- MALE/FEMALE, 20-45 YRS. OLD.
- EXPERIENCE IS AN ADVANTAGE BUT NOT NECESSARY

✓ GOOD COMPENSATION AWAITS QUALIFIED APPLICANTS

✓ NEW GRADUATES & EX-OFW'S MAY ALSO APPLY

Interview: Mon.-Fri., 8:00 a.m. -- 4:00 p.m., April 1-April 12, 2002

Bring resumé, any original credentials and 2x2 ID picture at:
235-C Mercan Bldg.
EDSA Ext., Pasay City
(walking distance from MRT/LRT EDSA Station going to Roxas Blvd.,
near Savers Square,
beside Allied Bank & Jianshe)
E-mail: grafilray@hotmail.com

✂ *Clip this ad upon applying*

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BE A PART OF
WORK AT HOME, INC.

If you are a Professional with the following qualifications:

- ▲ Graduate of Ateneo, La Salle, UP, UST, Assumption, San Beda, Mapua, St. Paul, St. Scholatica and other reputable schools
- ▲ Preferabably with working experience from the 1st Top 1,000 Corporation environment
- ▲ Has tools of the trade like a fax machine computer and e-mail at home
- ▲ Minimum 3-5 years experience

And if you are Employer looking for Applicants with these qualifications, then get in touch with us, we might have the right professional for the job. Which may include:

A Mystery Shopper (Food Chain, Electrical Standards, Mechanical Standards), Tutor for Cooking, Tutor for Domestic Helpers, Billing Clerks, Accountants, Collector, Feasibility / Project Study, Clerical Work, Sales Representatives, Marketing Services Representative, Transcriptors, System Engineer, Data Encoder, Internet Researcher, Database Developer, Book Keeper, Auditor, Credit Investigator, Telemarketer, Architect, Engineer, Payroll Clerk, Copy Writer, Graphic Artists, Illustrator or any related profession...

And if this Ad interests you, then get in touch with us, send or apply personally with your resumé!

FOR INQUIRIES
Work at Home, Inc. (WAH, Inc.)
Room 203 Jovan Condominium
600 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
Fax: 533-19-54
E-mail: workhome@info.com.ph

Rustan's

IS IN IMMEDIATE NEED OF TOP CALIBER INDIVIDUALS

HUMAN RESOURCES SPECIALISTS

- ➢ Female, at least 26 years old
- ➢ Graduate of Business Management or any Social Science course, preferably with inclinations in business
- ➢ Minimum of one (1) year experience in human resources
- ➢ With strong leadership qualities, high initiative and organizational skills
- ➢ Must have the potential to work in all areas of HR with minimum supervision
- ➢ Must be people-oriented, mature, analytical and highly motivated
- ➢ Must be able to adapt to a fast working environment
- ➢ Proficient in English communication and computer programs

DESIGNERS

- ➢ At least 25 years old
- ➢ Graduate of Industrial/Interior Design or any fashion-related course
- ➢ Must have at least (2) two years work experience in the same capacity
- ➢ Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality
- ➢ Must be computer literate

MERCHANDISE MANAGERS

- ➢ At least 25 years old
- ➢ Graduate of a 4-year business related course, preferably with an MBA or Fashion Merchandising degree
- ➢ With at least two (2) years work experience in the retail business in the same capacity
- ➢ Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
- ➢ Must be analytical, results-oriented, artistic, creative and with good fashion sense
- ➢ Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality
- ➢ Must be computer literate

RETAIL MANAGER

- ➢ Male, at least 25 years old
- ➢ Graduate of a (4) four-year degree course
- ➢ Preferably with work experience in boutique operations
- ➢ With strong leadership and excellent communication skills
- ➢ Highly presentable results-oriented, proficient in computers
- ➢ Willing to work on weekends and holidays

RUSTAN'S HEAD OFFICE
Human Resources & Organization Development Division
G/F, El Mercasol Building, EDSA, Mandaluyong City

(Only qualified applicants will be scheduled for an interview)

AYALA AVIATION CORPORATION

AYALA AVIATION CORPORATION,
a wholly-owned subsidiary of AYALA CORPORATION, opens up a job opportunity for a...

CORPORATE PILOT

He must be/have:

- ✓ At least 3000 Fhrs total flying time of which 1500 hours were in a multi-turbine engine environment.
- ✓ At least 500 Fhrs in any King-Air series.
- ✓ Pleasing personality, team orientation, and a relentless drive to succeed.
- ✓ Preferably with an ATPL license rated in SKA-350.
- ✓ Highly analytical.
- ✓ Aggressive, dynamic and hardworker.
- ✓ 30-40 years old.

WE OFFER ATTRACTIVE REMUNERATION PACKAGE.

Send or bring your comprehensive resumé with your recent 2"x 2" picture to **Ayala Hangar, Domestic Airport, Pasay City.** For inquiries, please call telephone numbers **851-4442** or **854-0764**, and look for **Rona Ebreo.**

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation

invites applicants for the position of

Supply Chain Manager

Contracts and Procurement Department

The Contracts and Procurement Department of Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation provides a challenging work environment for Supply Chain and Procurement Professionals.

As part of the Procurement team, the main challenge of the position is to formulate, lead, and implement contracting and procurement strategies for third party goods and services. The work involves participation in regional activities and travel within the ASEAN region.

Interested applicants should have:

- An Engineering degree and Masters in Business Administration or Business Management
- At least two (2) years work experience in Procurement with two (2) years specific experience in Supply Chain Management
- At least two (2) years of supervisory and managerial job
- In-depth knowledge in one or more areas of business process design, business control, contract management and commercial negotiation would be an advantage.);
- A keen business sense, excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- An unquestionable integrity
- An ability to perform as part of a management team and to motivate and lead a the procurement team
- High personal goals and a proven track record in delivering results

An attractive remuneration package, a chance to work in other countries, and training opportunities await the successful candidate.

Applicants may send their résumés with picture (on or before April 1) to:

PILIPINAS SHELL PETROLEUM CORPORATION
Shell House, 156 Valero Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City, 1227
(Attention: CP)

Or send via e-mail to **leo.develez@shell.com**

Please indicate this code on your résumés: **CP-0302**

Replies will be sent to qualified candidates only.

A new service company is looking for highly qualified and motivated individuals for the following positions:

NETWORK OPERATIONS CENTER ADMINISTRATOR

The Administrator is the manager of the Network Operations Center. This person will need to be a senior administrator with level four technical skills and with experience in managing a staff and an office.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Administrative and project management skills with supervisory experience for 5 years
- Minimum of 3 years experience in creating budgets for offices and projects
- With MCSE Certification 5 years, within one product release
- CCNA Certification 3 years, within 3 years of present
- WAN Administration 3 years, within 2 years of present
- Minimum of 3 years Network Operations Center Leadership
- Minimum of 3 years Network Operations Center Practice
- Exposure on MS Exchange for a minimum of 3 years
- Expertise on Internet and Website applications, minimum of 2 years experience
- SQL Exposure, minimum of 2 years experience
- Background in working with multi-cultural environment and within multiple offices

SHIFT LEADER

The Center will be open for 24 hours a day seven days a week. Applicants must be willing to be assigned to any shift.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- General Information Technology Experience for 5 years with current MCSE Certification for 2 years
- CCNA Certification for 2 years
- WAN Environment Management for 2 years
- Experience with management of a team for 2 years
- Project management experience, current
- Experience in software deployment and enterprise management current
- A solid understanding of Internet and SQL

TECHNICIANS

QUALIFICATIONS:

- MCP current
- MS Windows NT/Windows 2000 experience current
- CCNA current or literate
- MS Exchange basics current or literate
- General IT experience, two years current
- In training for MCSE Certification, current or literate

Qualified applicants may submit their resumé, 2x2 picture, and other credentials to:

THE OFFICE MANAGER
11th Floor Pacific Star Bldg.
Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue cor. Makati Avenue, Makati City

Please indicate position applied for and present salary (if employed)

The **WOMEN'S HEALTH & SAFE MOTHERHOOD PROJECT-PARTNERSHIPS COMPONENT**, a project of the Government of the Philippines with funding support from the European Union (EU), is currently in need of:

one highly creative and dynamic

DESKTOP PUBLISHING AND GRAPHICS DESIGN SPECIALIST

Who will assist the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Officer in conceptualizing and producing printed materials and IEC collaterals for the promotion of women's health and empowerment. Specifically she/he will:

- Design packages and covers/layout pages of manuals, modules, reports, etc.
- Prepare presentation materials such as transparencies, slide shows, exhibit panels
- Design and maintain the project website
- Provide technical assistance to regional project offices
- Assist the IEC officer in performing various tasks assigned to the unit

Qualifications:

- Extensive experience in DTP and graphics design
- Knowledgeable in web design and development, HTML
- Highly proficient in PageMaker, Photoshop, CorelDraw, MS Office, Dreamweaver
- Can do basic freehand drawing and illustration
- Excellent writting and editing skills
- Preferably gender-sensitive and aware of community health/development issues
- Graduate of a four-year course in Communications, Fine Arts or Social Sciences

We are offering a basic salary equivalent to SG-22, 13th month pay, philhealth, annual leaves, plus other benefits.

ONLY CANDIDATES WHO MEET THE ABOVE QUALIFICATIONS SHOULD APPLY. WE WILL ONLY RESPOND TO SHORT-LISTED APPLICANTS. THOSE CALLED FOR AN INTERVIEW SHOULD PRESENT A PORTFOLIO OF SAMPLE WORKS.

Interested applicants should submit their letter of intent, comprehensive resumé with a recent 2x2 photo, employment and academic credentials on or before **05 April 2002** to:

WHSMP-PC

THE HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER
Women's Health Project-Partnerships Component
5B Osmeña Building, 1991 Mabini Street
Malate, Manila
Fax: (632) 536-6406
E-mail: whsm-pc@pacific.net.ph

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-1771 -
MAKATI

by CHATEAU 1771
ORTIGAS CENTER MALATE

PASSION FOR EXCELLENCE
EMOTIONAL INDEPENDENCE
ZEST FOR LEARNING
RESILIENCY
ATTENTIVENESS TO DETAIL
FORTITUDE

"eXCITED nA bA kAYO ?!"

NON-NEGOTIABLE qualifications for the **MANAGEMENT TEAM ...**
: College education na hindi bitin
: Solid work experience in the restaurant business (or in a related field)
: Computer literacy
: Team leadership experience

POSITIONS :

RESTAURANT MANAGER
SOUS CHEF
BRAND MANAGER
FOOD & BEVERAGE CONTROLLER
RECRUITMENT AND ADMIN.OFFICER

ESSENTIAL qualifications for **OPENING CREW...**
: Men & women who are considering a career in the SERVICE industry and not applying *"just to find a job"*
: College education na hindi bitin at hindi far-out yung course
: Computer literacy

POSITIONS :

COOKS
KITCHEN HELPERS
SERVERS
RECEPTIONISTS
CASHIERS

SUPPORT UNITS . . . **HUMAN RESOURCES STAFF**
ACCOUNTING STAFF

Candidates must be willing to undergo 4-6 months of extensive training in all aspects of our operations, especially for leadership positions.

Qualified applicants may send their resume, 2x2 ID photo, transcript of records, certificates of employment or clearance from previous employers to: **HRD DEPARTMENT**
1771 M. Adriatico St., Malate, Manila

* Positions available up to April 15, 2002

Philippine Business for Social Progress

We are among the country's leading corporate-led social development foundations. Since 1970, we have been committed to making a strategic contribution to improve the quality of life of the under privileged Filipinos by promoting business sector commitment to social development and harnessing resources for innovative programs that lead to self-reliance and sustainable development.

Through the years, our job has meant more than just its pay. If you believe that you can make a difference in other people's lives, we invite you to fill in:

Senior Events Management & Fund Raising Officer

Reporting to the Head of Foundation Affairs, the jobholder will promote PBSP to its various publics, enhance the Foundation's image and prestige and manage the conceptualization, development and implementation of fundraising and corporate events of the Foundation.

Desktop Publisher

Reporting to the Sr. Foundation Affairs Officer, the job holder will take charge of packaging print materials using desktop publishing (i.e. PageMaker, Adobe Photoshop) to help implement PBSP's institutional public relations program.

Administrative Supervisors / Administrative Assistants

Provides effective and efficient administrative support to PBSP Regional Operations and Board Committees to ensure the attainment of long-term objectives.

Senior HRD Officer

Reporting to the HRD Manager, the jobholder will manage the equitable implementation of the Foundation's individual, career and organizational development programs. Completion of an MA degree in Psychology or Industrial Relations and/or corporate HR work experience is an advantage.

Program Officers / Training Officers

Operationalizes the program strategy through the implementation and coordination of programs/projects in the assigned area. Performs project development, monitoring and evaluation (PDIME) functions.

All candidates must be college graduates. Masters degree/units holders will have an advantage. They must be able to operate in a multi-skilled and multi-tasked environment. They must have at least 2 to 3 years experience in their particular field.

Kindly forward your resume, copy of diploma, TOR and photo to

THE HRD MANAGER
Philippine Business for Social Progress
3/F Philippine Social Development Center
Magallanes cor. Real Sts. Intramuros, Manila
Tel: 527-7741 to 51 Fax: 527-3743
Email: hrd@pbsp.org.ph

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

SANITARY/ CIVIL ENGINEER

○ To work as an Assistant to the Operators
○ Supervisor of Waste Water Treatment Plants
○ With working experience
○ Preferably female but not necessary
○ Computer literate
○ Current driver's license
○ Hardworking and with good disposition

Report personally with latest biodata and picture to:

ENVIROKONSTRUK & DEV. CORP.
2/F R.T. & SONS
#14 ECONOMIA ST.,
BAGUMBAYAN, QUEZON CITY
437-5297 ro 633-4634

SPORTSHOUSE INT'L LEISURE INC.

Is in need of qualified and dynamic individual to fill the following vacant positions:

ACCOUNTANT

- Female, Preferably single, 25-30 years old
- Possess good moral character
- Willing to work under pressure
- Flexible

ACCOUNTING CLERK

- Female, Preferably single, 25-30 years old
- Accounting graduate
- At least one year working experience
- With pleasing personality

BRANCH CASHIER

- Female
- College level
- Computer literate
- Willing to be assigned in any branches
- With pleasing personality

Interested applicants may come personally at:
19 PECTON BLDG., GILMORE AVE., NEW MLA., QUEZON CITY
or you may call us at 721-2480/721-5553

JOB OPPORTUNITY
IN THE FASTEST GROWING REMITTANCE COMPANY

BOOKKEEPER/ACCOUNTANT

Job Responsibilities:

1. Handling of book of accounts/record keeping
2. Monthly Bank Reconciliation/Trial Balances/Financial Statement
3. Preparation of government regulatory requirements such VAT/ ITR
4. Preparation of disbursement, schedules of fix assets and other pre-payments

We require the candidate to be:

1. Male or female, 23-28 years old
2. Graduate of Bachelor of Science in Accountancy
3. With 1-3 years of experience
4. Computer literate and familiarity with Accounting Software

What we offer:

1. Attractive salary package
2. Medical & Insurance Benefits

Send your resumé to:

UNITELLER FILIPINO Inc.
1108 Prestige Tower
Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center
or through:
E-mail: FZR@uniteller.com

A new service company is looking for highly qualified and motivated individuals for the following positions:

NETWORK OPERATIONS CENTER ADMINISTRATOR

The Administrator is the manager of the Network Operations Center. This person will need to be a senior administrator with level four technical skills and with experience in managing a staff and an office.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Administrative and project management skills with supervisory experience for 5 years
- Minimum of 3 years experience in creating budgets for offices and projects
- With MCSE Certification 5 years, within one product release
- CCNA Certification 3 years, within 3 years of present
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○ Preferably female but not necessary
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IN THE FASTEST GROWING REMITTANCE COMPANY

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Send your resumé to:

UNITELLER FILIPINO Inc.
1108 Prestige Tower
Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center
or through:
E-mail: FZR@uniteller.com

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

An **Established Network Marketing Co. (MLM)** invites suitably qualified and experienced individual, to fill up the following key positions:

VIDEO EDITOR

- Male/Female, 25-35 years old
- Knowledgeable in 3D graphics Animation and production
- With Background experience in advertising is an advatange

FUNCTIONS AND EVENTS ORGANIZER

- Male/Female, 25-28 years old
- BSC Mass Communication and/or Marketing graduate
- Background experience in organizing company's activities such as:
  - Seminars and Conventions
  - Product Launching
  - Sales Rallies
  - Trips/Local and abroad
- Good Interpersonal and Leadership skill

FRANCHISE MANAGER

- Male/Female, 25-35 years old
- Knowledge and experience in all aspects of franchising including operation implementation and enforcement
- With Degree in Business or Major in Marketing
- Good Interpersonal & leadership skill

PUBLISHING EDITOR/WEB DESIGNER

- Male, 22-28 years old
- BSC Major in English or Journalism graduate
- Knowledgeable in HTLM, Java Script and Macromedia Flash
- Design & Maintain the Web page; In-charge e-mail correspondence
- With background Experience from a Network Marketing Co.
- Periodical publication/Newsletters & brochures

PRODUCT MANAGER

- Male/Female, 25-35 years old
- Qualified nutritionist
- With Marketing Experience and sound knowledge in health products and Food Supplement
- Good Interpersonal and marketing skills.

Please send your resumé to:

The Sr. Marketing Manager
3rd Floor, EDMARK Bldg.
No. 355 P. Tuazon Blvd. cor. 21st Avenue,
Cubao, Quezon City

Tel. No. **(02) 913-5515**
Email: **edmark@info.com.ph**

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greenwich

TAKE A SLICE OF OUR CAREER OPPORTUNITIES!

Being the NUMBER ONE pizza-pasta food chain
also means creating ONE-OF-A-KIND career individuals.

R&D SPECIALIST

- ☐ male or female; not more than 30 years old
- ☐ must be a graduate of BS Food Technology from a reputable school
- ☐ with at least two years experience in product development, particularly on meat (and poultry, optional) processing
- ☐ can work with minimum supervision; able to handle work pressures
- ☐ with good oral and written communication skills
- ☐ must be computer-literate

Interested parties should send their comprehensive resume with recent 2x2 colored photo and Transcript of Records to:

HRD- Selection & Hiring
Rm. 303 Jollibee Center, San Miguel Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City
E-MAIL ADDRESS: apply@greenwich.com.ph

A LEADING LAW FIRM INVITES APPLICANTS
FOR THE POSITION OF:

PLANNING AND BUDGET CONTROL STAFF

- ➢ male or female
- ➢ BS Commerce major in Accounting or BS in Accounting
- ➢ experience in preparation of budget
- ➢ extensive experience in revenue and expense accounting
- ➢ expert in balance sheet and income statement analysis
- ➢ working knowledge of MS Office especially Word, Excel and Powerpoint
- ➢ with supervisory experience

FILES CUSTODIAN

- ➢ college graduate, preferably with 2-3 years relevant work experience
- ➢ highly computer literate with experience in files computerization preferred
- ➢ not more than 30 years of age

Qualified applicants may submit their resumé, 2x2 picture and other credentials to:

THE OFFICE MANAGER
11th Floor, Pacific Star Building
Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue corner Makati Avenue
Makati City

Please indicate position applied for and present salary (if employed)

MBC HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
POEA 272-LB-062600-R

Our Principals in Saudi Arabia needed the following workers

SURVEYORS

- ☑ Minimum qualification B.S. Civil Engineer
- ☑ Capable of doing layouts using theodolites
- ☑ Capable of marking references elevation grid lines
- ☑ Preferred working in high rise building
- ☑ Minimum 3 years experience

DESIGNER IN KITCHEN

- ☑ Engineering graduate
- ☑ Experience in kitchen designing
- ☑ Autocad background
- ☑ Familiar with 20-20 design Tools or similar kitchen design softwares

DESIGNER/ARCHITECT

- ☑ Bachelor Degree (Architect)
- ☑ 5 years experience in Theeming (Amusement Parks and Entertainment Centers) indoor designing
- ☑ Experience in conceptualizing design via CorelDraw, Adobe, Print Artist and other graphic design programs
- ☑ Good in color combination and concept presentation

CHINESE COOK

- ☑ Knowledgeable in all the Chinese food dishes
- ☑ 3 to 5 years experience

Interested applicants may apply personally. Just bring all your supporting documents at the address below:

MBC HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
#3524 Mola Street, Pasong Tamo, Makati City
Tel. No. 897-5918

"NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED"
"MAG-INGAT SA MGA ILLEGAL RECRUITERS"
"THIS AD IS APPROVED BY POEA"

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

We are the Philippine franchisee of the U.S. based multi-million dollar company, now sponsoring a special program. We need:

30 OJT PERSONNEL

The Job: Interviewing and Seminars on Field Assignments

QUALIFICATIONS:

- 22 to 30 years old
- At least completed 2nd year college
- Willing to travel around the Philippines
- Experience not necessary
- Chinese speaking an advantage

COMPENSATION:

- P 9,000.00 - while on probation
- P 11,000.00 - plus incentive - regular
- Free training (4 days)
- Fast promotion to managerial position

Apply personally tomorrow, April 01 (Monday) & 02 (Tuesday), 2002 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at 4th floor Orcel Bldg. 1611 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City near EDSA and HI-TOP SUPERMARKET (top of Land Bank)

FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE...

Those presently employed, and students need not apply.

YAMAICHI ELECTRONICS SINGAPORE PTE LTD
(Philippine Representative Office)

An MNC specializing in designing connectors and IC sockets for the electronics and semiconductor industries seeking a self-motivated team player for the following position:

SALES/ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The Job:

- Handle all incoming calls and messages
- Administer the sending and receiving of all company mails/ parcels
- Travel arrangement
- Handle other administrative and ad-hoc duties
- Update customer master records
- Customer order/shipment administration
- Participate in other sales support related services

Requirements:

- Good Diploma in Administration or higher
- Good PC software knowledge
- Able to work independently with minimal supervision
- Must be mature, a good team player with strong communication skills
- Able to start work immediately an added advantage

Please write in or e-mail with a detailed resumé indicating current and expected salaries, full personal and career details, contact number and a recent photograph by **April 20, 2002** to:

Mr. Alberto Marcaida
Yamaichi Electronics Singapore Pte Ltd
C/o PMI, First Avenue corner San Antonio Drive
Mañalac Industrial Estate
Taguig, Metro Manila, Philippines
Fax: (632) 8383308
E-mail: abet.am@skyinet.net

A CALL CENTER SERVICES CO.

WANTED FOR IMMEDIATE DEPLOYMENT:

- ○ **Telemarketers** - To handle calls to customers and clients.
- ○ **Off-site Based Personnel**
  - ○ Unemployed Male/Female - Must be willing to work home based.
  - ○ Students - Willing to work part time or full time
- ○ **Account Officers** - To be in-charge of specific clients
- ○ **Office Collection Staff** - To assist and follow up in the collection of accounts
- ○ **Field Collection Staff** - To handle field negotiations for collection of accounts. Must know how to drive four/two wheels vehicles
- ○ **Personnel Officer** - To handle personnel matters
- ○ **Office Manager** - Previous experience in office administration required
- ○ **Computer Programmer** - Competent in Microsoft applications
- ○ **Accountant** - College graduate, Accounting major

If you are fluent in English/Tagalog, hardworking, honest and dedicated, join us. We offer highly competitive compensation package with incentives and the opportunity to grow.

APPLY IN PERSON WITH BIODATA, PASSPORT PICTURES AND REFERENCES.

Head Office:
10th Floor, One San Miguel Ave. Tower
Shaw Blvd. Corner San Miguel Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. # 687 5556

Cebu Branch:
Unit 208 2nd Floor Gorones Bldg.
Osmeña Blvd.
Cebu City
Tel. # (032) 255 0791

KIDZWORLD

The country's First and Only Child-Oriented Nature, Sports, and Adventure Club Complex

Sales Directors

- 25-35 years of age
- 2-5 years managerial experience
- Superior communication skills (verbal and written)
- Have been in a managerial capacity in sales

Sales Managers

- 2-3 years experience in managing sales force
- All the requirements of a sales director in a micro level

Account Executives

- College degree, preferably in the field of marketing or communications
- Fluent in English and Filipino
- Good presentation skills
- Pleasing and dynamic personality
- Positive, can-do attitude
- Ready to learn, play, and work hard

Project Engineers

- Licensed Engineer with experienced

Executive Secretary

- Graduate of any 4-year course, preferably English or Journalism graduate

KIDZWORLD theme parks, amusement, and recreational club, inc.
83 Boni Serrano Avenue (formerly Santolan), Quezon City, Philippines, 1111
phone: [632] 721-2167 / 721-3509 fax: [632] 721-2596
email: fun@kidzworld.com.ph

Our company is an ISO Certified 9001 and a recognized leader in the field of information and communications. We are looking for dynamic, assertive and competent professionals to fill-up Project Employment for:

SITE ENGINEERS

Qualifications:

- Graduate of Civil Engineer preferably licensed
- Minimum of 5 years experience in multi-discipline projects as Project Engineer
- Should have at least 1 year experience on cell site construction
- With valid driver's license
- Willing to accept provincial assignment
- Excellent communication skills

Qualified applicants are requested to send their curriculum vitaé, 2x2 photo, contact number and copy of other credentials to:

P.O. Box 13194 Pasig City 1605
or E-mail to pen275@yahoo.com

- ➢ We will respond to short-listed applicants only.

HR Manila
Human Resources Consultancy

HR Manila, a human resources consultancy company specializing in manpower search and recruitment for project-based, contract and permanent staff for local employment and other human resources related services is in need of the following for placement and manpower pooling.

ENCODER
MERCHANDISER
RECEPTIONIST
WAITER
COOK

WRITER
PROMO GIRLS
GENERAL CLERK
WAITRESS
ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

Please send resumé or apply in person at:
HR Manila
UG 19 Cityland Pioneer
Pioneer Street, Mandaluyong City
from Monday thru Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and
Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

or email at:
hrmanilarecruit@emailaccount.com

REVOLUTIONIZE FINANCIAL SERVICES!

NMG FINANCIAL SERVICES CONSULTING designs and implements best practice solutions for leading financial services providers across the globe

NMG
FINANCIAL SERVICES CONSULTING

Distribution Consultants

NMG is seeking to appoint consultants to support the development of our distribution practice in the Philippines and across Asia Pacific. You will advise financial services organizations across the full spectrum of consulting solutions in sales, marketing and distribution.

Senior Consultant

In this role you will provide leadership and mentoring for project team members, ensure that strong client relationships are built and maintained, and identify potential opportunities for new client work, prepare and present proposals as required. As part of a team effort you will also have marketing responsibilities across the region.

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In this role you will be responsible for assisting Senior Consultants in developing and implementing solutions for our clients. You may assist with client interviews, undertake desk research and analysis, facilitate workshops, or assist in preparing presentations to senior executives.

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Applicants for both positions should be team players with polished interpersonal and communication skills and be willing to travel extensively across Asia Pacific.

Please email your résumé, quoting Ref No. AFR020 in the Subject Line, to the following email address:
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GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

INQUIRER
magazine

March 31, 2002

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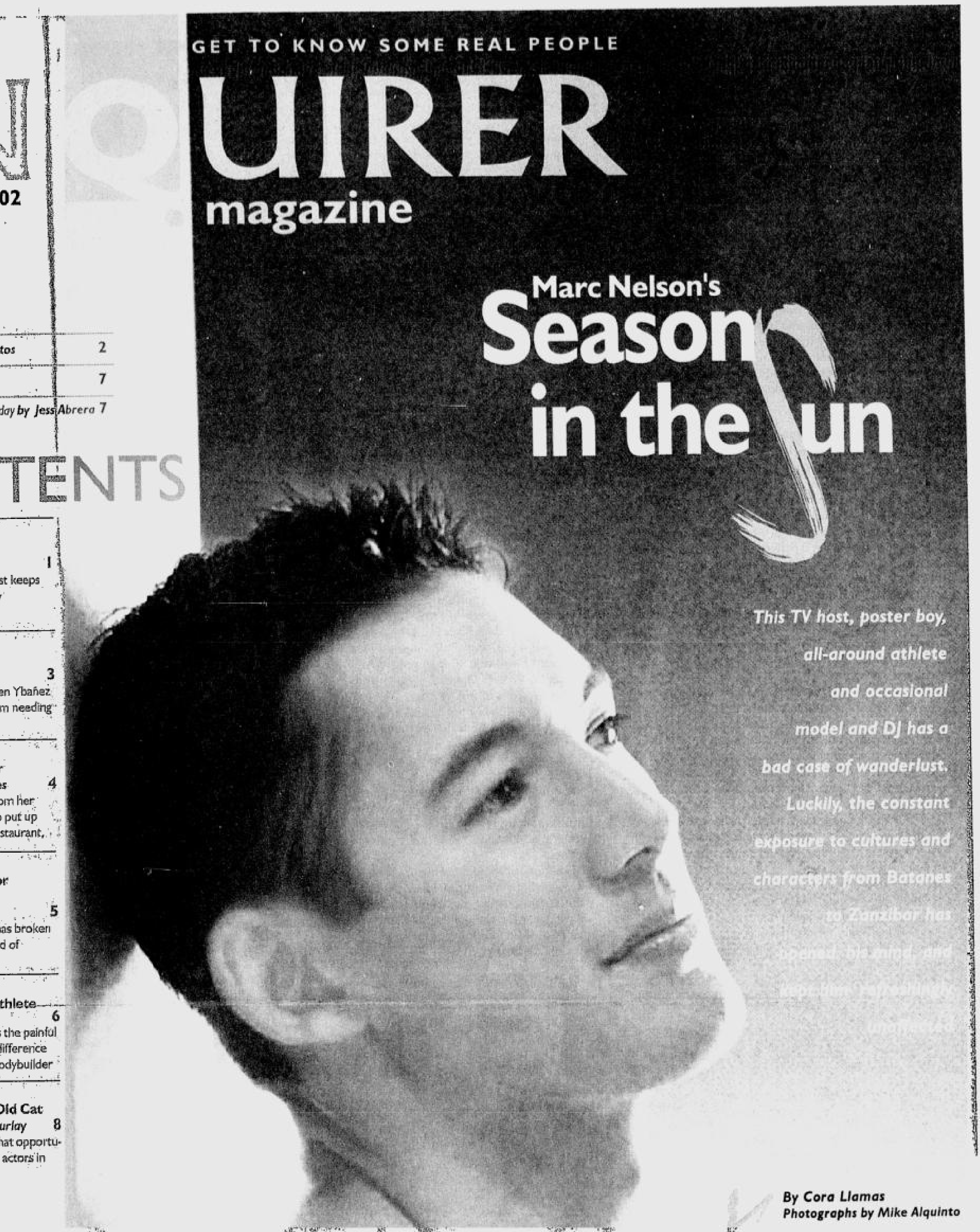

Marc Nelson's

Season in the Sun

This TV host, poster boy, all-around athlete and occasional model and DJ has a bad case of wanderlust. Luckily, the constant exposure to cultures and characters from Batanes to Zanzibar has opened his mind, and kept him refreshingly unaffected

By Cora Llamas
Photographs by Mike Alquinto

KEEP your eyes open the next time you take the MRT. You just might find yourself standing beside the handsomest sports expert on TV.

Marc Nelson of "Sports Unlimited" HAS been around. He's wandered the bustling shops of Istanbul, hiked the dirt roads of Zanzibar, and fit his 5'11" frame into a cramped tricycle in Cubao. What's even more amazing is that he has never lost that sense of wonder that has kept him hopping from one strange place to another, since he was a kid. About 40 countries mapped out and checked in his directory may make him a seasoned traveler, but fortunately, didn't give him with that snooty "been there, done that" attitude.

But then again, Marc would be the first one to deny he's ever been a tourist. "I don't want to be one. I want to experience the country. I don't want to stay in a nice building, eat in a fancy restaurant, just looking and pointing at sites and taking pictures. I want to experience the culture, eating where real people eat."

Indulging that intrepid spirit can also mean having his entire backpack stolen in Bulgaria, or staying "in the seediest spots in Europe, spending my time counting the roaches in the bathroom." He chuckles a bit as he remembers some of his fondest memories. No wearisome complaints about the locals. To Marc, the apparent inconveniences have surpassed themselves to become hearty adventures.

"I didn't know anyone," he says of the Bulgarian incident. "I didn't speak the language and had to make do. I still had my credit cards, but even getting money out from the ATM terminal is no easy task. I had to go to the post office to send faxes to facilitate the payment. But hey, I hung out with some teenagers in the

To page 2

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...from page 1

morning. They were selling sunglasses and ice cream. They'd teach me Bulgarian and I'd teach them English." He finishes seriously, "I love Bulgaria!"

The Australian-born TV host spent his childhood in eight countries, the Philippines among them. This is one hunk who seems to have fallen in love with the world.

He rattles off eagerly, "Turkey is simply vibrant, just going through the market with all its spices and wonderful food.

"I lived in Tanzania for three years when I was about 6 years old. It's raw and undeveloped. There's no TV, no radio, no paved roads, and you'd need a generator even if there was electricity. There were days when you'd have to run out and stock toilet paper if there was a sale. But," he stresses, flashing a grin that has captivated millions of sports-loving Filipinas, "it wasn't *that* bad.

"Now Eastern Europe — that was fun. I was there for a couple of months in 1995. Went to Scandinavia and Denmark. Eastern Europe was just coming out of the communist mindset. The Army stood guard at checkpoints while people were smuggling cigarettes."

He laughs a little bit when his Manila friends complain "about the hardships here." The man has seen worse. And just maybe, that's what has kept a superstar ego at bay, though he is perfectly at home in glamorous circles, strutting down fashion ramps or swinging to the beat in "Keep on Dancing." This poster boy doesn't even have a maid or a driver, though he certainly can afford them. He cooks his own meals, brings his own clothes to the laundry service, and when he has the time, cleans his own apartment. "I've always looked after myself," he says simply. "I don't feel that has to change. And I value my privacy."

As soon as Marc lands in another foreign city, his first homework is not the hottest night spot, the most popular tourist site, or the nearest foreign exchange center. "I learn how to say 'Thank you' in the native language to show appreciation for the locals' help. At the end of it, you should always say *salamat* because you're in their country and you're privileged that they're helping you out."

That knock-em-dead grin also comes easily to Marc. "You smile. You stay patient. A smile goes a long way. If you're friendly with people and smile at them, they're more than willing to help."

This mixture of enthusiasm, wide-eyed wonder, easy adaptability to other cultures and genuine desire to meet people — not to mention the good looks — inevitably landed him his most famous gig to date. On the late night "Sports Unlimited," Marc is not a distant host. He gives all of his heart when he bungee jumps, scuba dives, and sails down the rapids. He's having a lot of fun, taking the viewers with him for the rest of the ride. When he says why Batanes is such a great place to visit, it's easy to believe him because he's almost certainly tried everything that had to be tried himself. He doesn't just shoot off the research; the awe and let's-get-out-there attitude jump right out of his eyes. Even the athletically challenged find themselves wishing they were with him.

Marc never envisioned a life in the spotlight

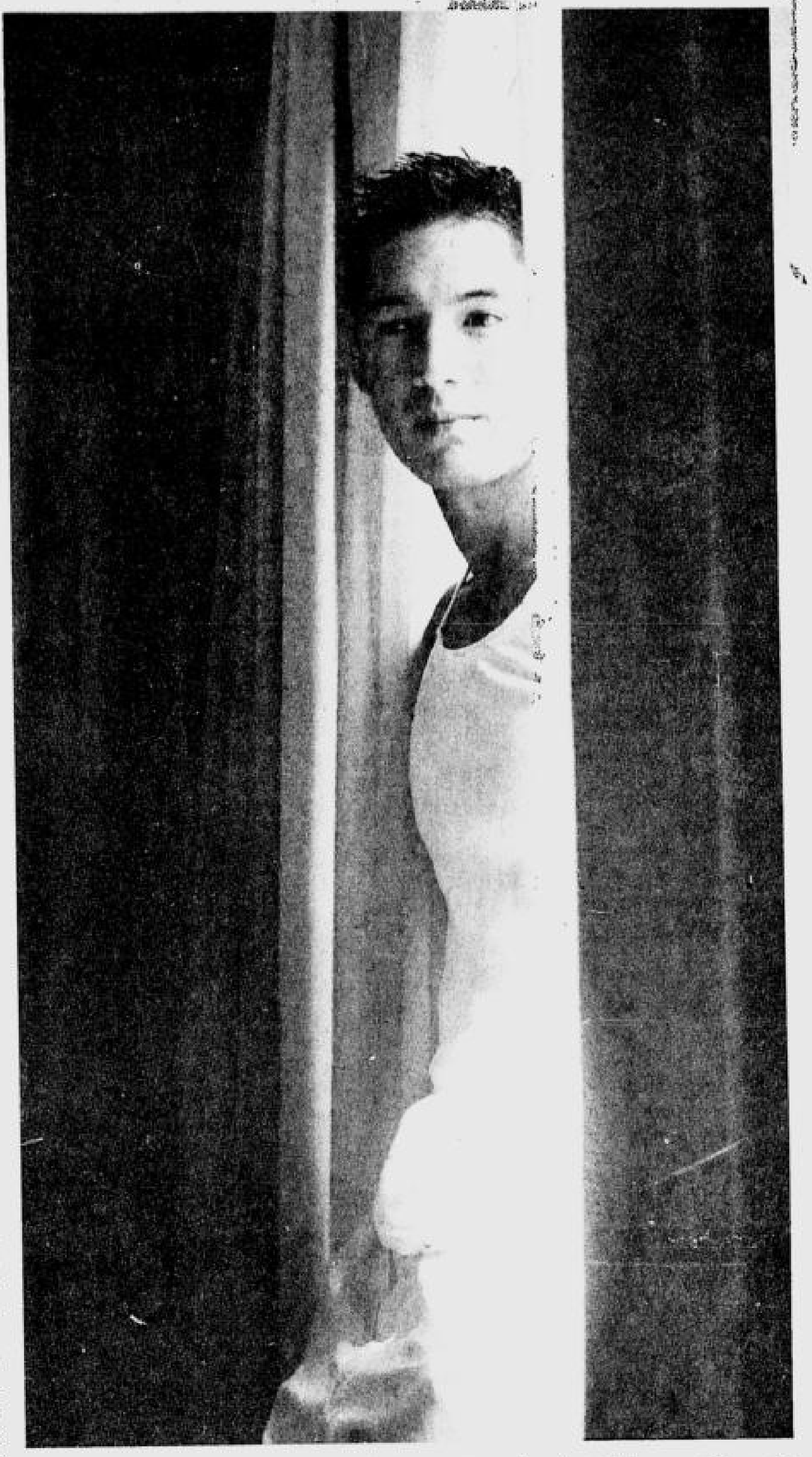
Though Marc never envisioned a career in the spotlight, it was bound to happen. His parents worked for international organizations like the United Nations and the Asian Development Bank. Projects focused on protecting the environment or uplifting struggling economies kept the Nelsons moving from one country to another. The family stayed in one place for anywhere from six months to four years.

"The travel lifestyle has been in my blood since I was a kid," Marc muses. "Maybe that's why I managed to assimilate very fast. I had thought of following in my dad's footsteps at first, working for the UN. Then I thought of becoming a journalist, or something that's always got to do with moving around. I have never pictured myself sitting in an office, slugging away from 9 to 5."

Ironically, he was just about to start a 9-to-5 managerial post in California when "Sports Unlimited" beckoned. While vacationing in the Philippines, his old friends in Channel 2 asked him to host a few episodes. The "purely temporary arrangement" soon stretched to months. Marc found himself doing what he loved best — traveling and doing sports — and broke the news to his boss.

Fortunately, the boss happened to be a very good friend. His advice: "You're scuba diving here and jet skiing there — and you're getting paid for this? It *is* the chance of a lifetime."

The former IS student who once lived "a very sheltered life" in the Manila expat community is now having a ball broadening his knowledge of the Philippines. It doesn't take a lot of prodding for him to gush about his favorite hideaways.



"I'm an admitted Boracay addict. I don't just go there and party. I go there off season, I have friends with whom I can hang out and relax with. Sailing, diving, lying down on the beach — it's a very nice laid-back lifestyle.

"Batanes is beautiful: the rolling hills, the cliffs. There are very few people there, but they're so friendly. They speak probably the most excellent English I've found in the Philippines. There are no cell sites. It's an idyllic place that I hope won't change so much."

How does he pick the next city on his itinerary? "Just somewhere off the beaten track," he shrugs. "Somewhere I've never been before. Like South America."

Fortysomething countries under his belt —"36 visited, eight lived in" — is a tough act to top, though. Marc fakes a shocked look. "Are you kidding?" Then he winks, "I still have 150 to go!"

As they say in the movies, the great adventure for this free spirit is just beginning.

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The Cover Image Marc Nelson basks in the glow of summer. *Photographed at the New World Renaissance Hotel by Mike Alquinto. Digital composition by Marlone Rubio*

WANTED: REVOLUTION

I enjoyed the well-written article, "Breaking the Silence" (**SIM**, 17 Feb.2002). It compels me to seek out the book "To Suffer Thy Comrades" by Robert Garcia. Please advise me where I can purchase a copy. I am an American living in Lansing, Michigan, USA. Thank you.

MICHAEL SKUTAR
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Please contact the publisher, Anvil Publishing Inc., at pubdept@anvil.com.ph.

SOLID CONTENT

The quality of this edition (**SIM**, 3 March 2002) is better than the previous ones I have read before. The articles have a lot more "meat" in them and are very thoughtful and detailed. It's not the usual blah article that **SIM** often has and Philippine news often prints. I liked the Operation Smile article very much. I would like to ask that contact information for NGOs like this be posted. I am trying to build an online database of NGOs with projects in the Philippines, and I find many of the NGO names in news articles. But these articles often do not provide contact information. So please provide contact info if you can.

TAMBOLINA
Via SIM Feedback Message
discussions.inq7.net

THUMBS UP FOR JONAS

Just read the story about Peter Jonas Rodriguez David ("Walking Tall," **SIM**, 17 March 2002). It's stories like this that truly uplifts our spirits. Instead of saying "woe is me," Peter's struggle for excellence and sheer determination to overcome his physical handicap, are indeed inspiring. Sometimes, the media overlooks stories like this. Thanks for posting this story.

TONY P. FERNANDEZ
Montreal, Canada
afernan@look.ca

Thanks for featuring Mr. Peter Jonas David. After reading your item I realized that there are people who have suffered more difficulties than I do in my physical disability. And yet no matter what physical impairment we might have, this shouldn't deter us from making things better in this life. It's even quite amazing how physically disabled people can achieve more in our society than those who are not. While reading Mr. David's story I suddenly recall how college life was like for me in the university. I may not have graduated *cum laude*, but I was sure many students were likewise inspired by the fact that I made it to the stage of the PICC to receive my diploma despite my physical disability. Thanks again, **SIM**, for your story.

GING LAO
z_rock_2000@edsamail.com.ph

INSPIRING REMY

I had the chance to read the article of Cathy Babao Guballa ("Service as a Way of Life," **SIM**, 24 March 2002). I found it truly timely in this season of Lent. The story of Remy Ignacio is something anyone can learn a lot from. Thanks for the inspiring story. More power and God bless.

NATS SISMA
nsisma@zuelligpharma.com.ph

Poetry

Night Dive at Sipaca Point

Just before plunging into the evening sea,
outlined only by the crescent moon's
pallid shimmer, my eyes,
in the briefest instant –
catch the twinkling of a million stars.

And in a splash
I'm in another world:
Floating in ethereal cold,
Suspended in liquid darkness.

The sound of my breathing
merges with the sea pulse
(a sound unlike that of waves,
more like a heartbeat).

Then suddenly
I'm overwhelmed by a sense of familiarity.
Perhaps I imagined, remembered
how it felt inside a womb.

Or perhaps, something more:
As speckles of plankton, quintessence of life
twirled and swirled around me
in a bioluminescent frenzy,

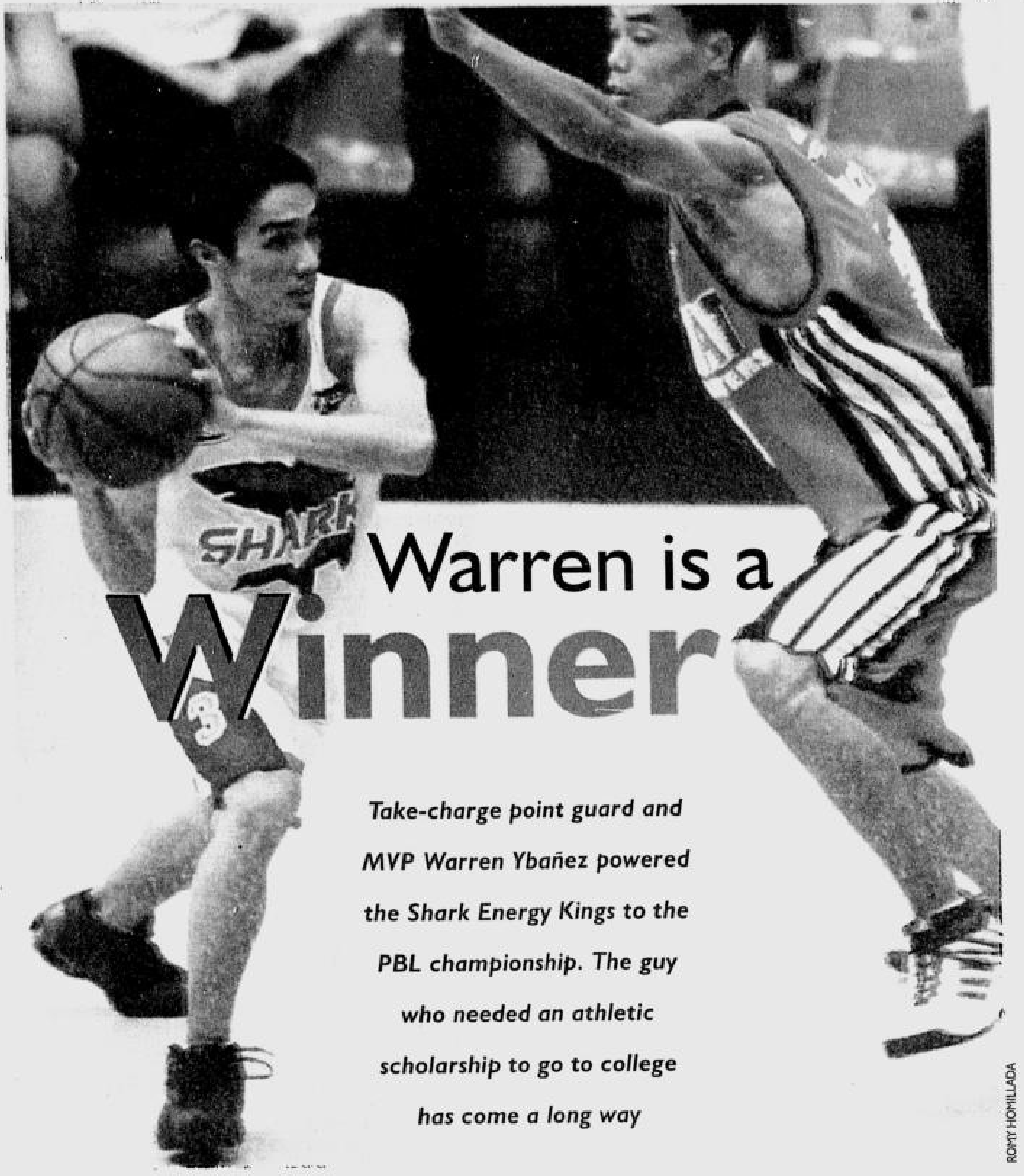
in the briefest instant –
the birth of stars.

Michael S. Santos

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine accepts contributions for our regular poetry section. Interested contributors should send a printed copy of the poem (which may be in English or Filipino) together with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ruel S. De Vera, poetry editor, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Mascardo and Yague Streets, Makati City 1263, or e-mail to <sim@inquirer.com.ph>

All in the Game

By Fe Lacsamana



ROMY HOMILLADA

Warren is a Winner

Take-charge point guard and MVP Warren Ybañez powered the Shark Energy Kings to the PBL championship. The guy who needed an athletic scholarship to go to college has come a long way

As the delirious Shark Energy Kings whooped it up under gently falling blue balloons, Warren Ybañez lifted his trophy for all inside the Makati Coliseum to see. The Most Valuable Player of the Philippine Basketball League Challenge Cup Finals then wheeled around to where his folks were and hoisted the cup even higher as if to say, "Look Ma, Pa, I made it!"

The son's one shining moment after the Shark-Welcoat championship was one instance when Pedro a.k.a. Boy Dagul was hushed. Described by his 22-year-old son as *"yon pong maingay at matabang kalbo* (the rowdy fat bald man) among the spectators," Boy Dagul was choking with the emotion of a proud father. "We're poor. If coach Tony Guinto didn't help Warren with an athletic scholarship, he wouldn't have gone on to college. My wife Corazon had to help me support him and his sister Yalen by selling banana cue," explains the retired taxi driver in Taglish.

The road to the MVP wasn't controversy-free, though. Ybañez became a *sibat*-PBL when, at one time in his young hoops career, the two teams he was a member of played knockout matches on the same day. Blu Detergent lost to Chowking. PSBA bowed to St. Francis of Assisi College. For Blu's disastrous finish, Ybanez bore the brunt of Coach Nat Canson's rage.

"I couldn't win the game all by myself," rues the southpaw cager. Smarting from the severe tongue-lashing and the blame thrown at him, the diminutive point guard joined the Pasig Pirates upon the suggestion of Coach Coy Banal. But not without doubts. "Was I ripe at 20 for the professional league? What if I don't make the grade? It's okay, said Coach Banal. (Bong) Ravena and the others were there to help out. So I tried the MBA," he recounts.

But home is where the heart is. When Team Shark was being organized, Coach Coy asked him back. Even with Topex Robinson there, Ybanez could be someone Coach Leo Austria needs. So, back to the PBL he went and on to basketball history.

Time was when Ybañez, a frail-looking toothpick of a boy, would play basketball unshod. "Either my rubber slippers would fly off my feet and I didn't know which to catch first, the ball or my slippers, or they'd get ripped up fast." And he would never hear the end of it from his mom. Or from his *lola* Angela with whom they lived in Cainta's Karangalan Village, who nagged him no end about attending to his books instead of the ball each time he took home a trophy.

"Ano 'yan? Basura! Di pwede, nag-aaral ka pa (It's trash. Forget it, you're still studying)," the old lady would hiss, afraid that the beloved grandson would break a bone during play. Not to mention, the additional laundry his mom would have to wash.

To which Ybañez would counter, "*La*, I've learned to love basketball." That was the monotonous dialogue in his neophyte years.

Against the formidable Ybañez women, Boy Dagul was the would-be hardcourt warrior's staunch ally. Go on and play, the stocky native of Cebu's Bantayan Island would say.

"If we could, we would've slept there on the court. That's how hooked we were on the game. We even bought our own fuse to light the playground. P2 went to the bet and P.50 for iced water," Ybanez recounts in Tagalog.

The 135-pounder recalls with glee, "There was this really tight game with heavy bets. I stole the ball. There was a lot of taunting. One got piqued and socked me. I cried." Expectedly, faster than a cannonball, jiggling tummy and all, Boy Dagul would be after the culprit to give him a piece of his mind. He was always ready to defend the 11-year-old against oppressors thrice his size and already in high school or college.

"Just you wait when I grow as big as you!" little Warren would shout, hopping mad at his offender. "I won't even look at you."

Now that he's 5'8" and greeted by strangers, has he?

Catching on to the joke, he beams, "I'm still a simple guy. Even if people I don't know call my name, I don't snob them. In the province or anywhere the team goes, we're treated almost like movie stars. So, I reciprocate their kindness."

But try to hit Warren now. That is, if you can catch up with him. Through the years, Ybañez has developed dazzling speed that not even Hector Calma, the greatest Filipino pointguard, could manage in his glory days. INQUIRER chief fotog and Ybañez's neighbor, Ernie Sarmiento, has seen him in his barangay tournament days. "Even then, Warren was fast and a court leader although he was tiny," he muses.

Not only sports aficionados have eyed his directorial skills on the sandlot. Politicians tapped Ybanez for the Samahang Kabataan hierarchy but the shy management junior had set his priorities. "A college degree, a basketball career, perhaps business of my own when my playing days are over."

Definitely, that's a long way off. Big time basketball lies ahead, waiting to be conquered. "My role model is still in the PBA. Maybe, in two or three years, I'll be ready to move up."

It wasn't so much his statistical average per game of 9.2 points-3 rebounds-3.8 assists-2 steals that clinched the Chairman's Cup MVP award for Ybañez as it was his heroic effort to lead Shark into the finals against Welcoat.

It was shaky ground where the Energy Kings stood. The Paintmasters with their ceiling and deep bench were intact. Shark ballhandler Topex Robinson wasn't playing his usual game since his small son got sideswiped by a car.

Tadah! Faster than a speeding MRT to the rescue came Ybañez. "He proved that he could bring Shark to the finals," says Coach Leo Austria. "Warren is one player who's truly dedicated to the discipline. He's very coachable. Whatever the instructions, good or bad, he'd follow without any complaint."

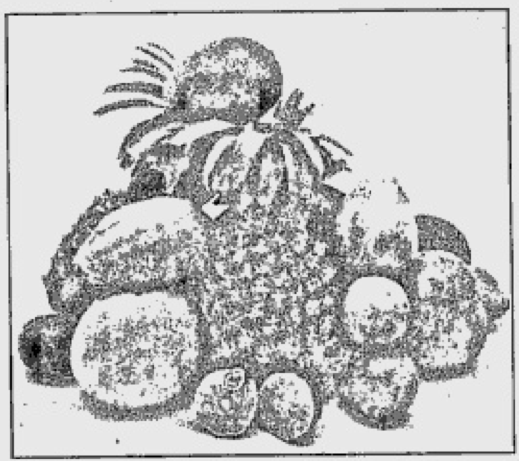
Austria adds: "You can see he knows what direction he'd like to take in life. He knows he has a future in the game. With Topex unable to focus, Ybañez stepped up his game and asserted his leadership."

"I just followed Coach Leo's orders," stresses the Shark sentinel. "*Mabigat ang* experiences *niya* inside the court. He says heart is what matters on the floor. As a point guard, I need to give life to the other four (players). It is my job to relay his instructions to my teammates."

It's a changing of the guard on the Shark front. Robinson has switched camp and is with the Olongapo team in the MBA, leaving Ybañez to start and call the shots for the Energy Kings.

To be up to the task of take-charge guy during the finals, Ybañez put in an additional half-hour of shooting practice daily. With the new challenge, expect him to be on the court most of the day honing up. At variable times, he would be jogging or lifting weights.

Only in the evening hours would he transform into a couch potato glued to his *telenovelas* to offset the full speed mode. "Nothing like them to take your mind off things and relax," he says, beaming.



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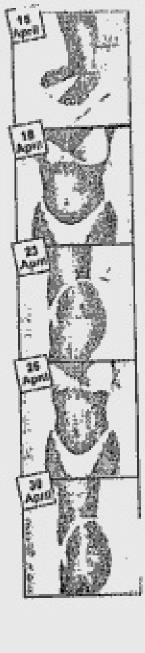

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WANTED

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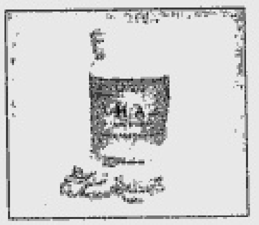

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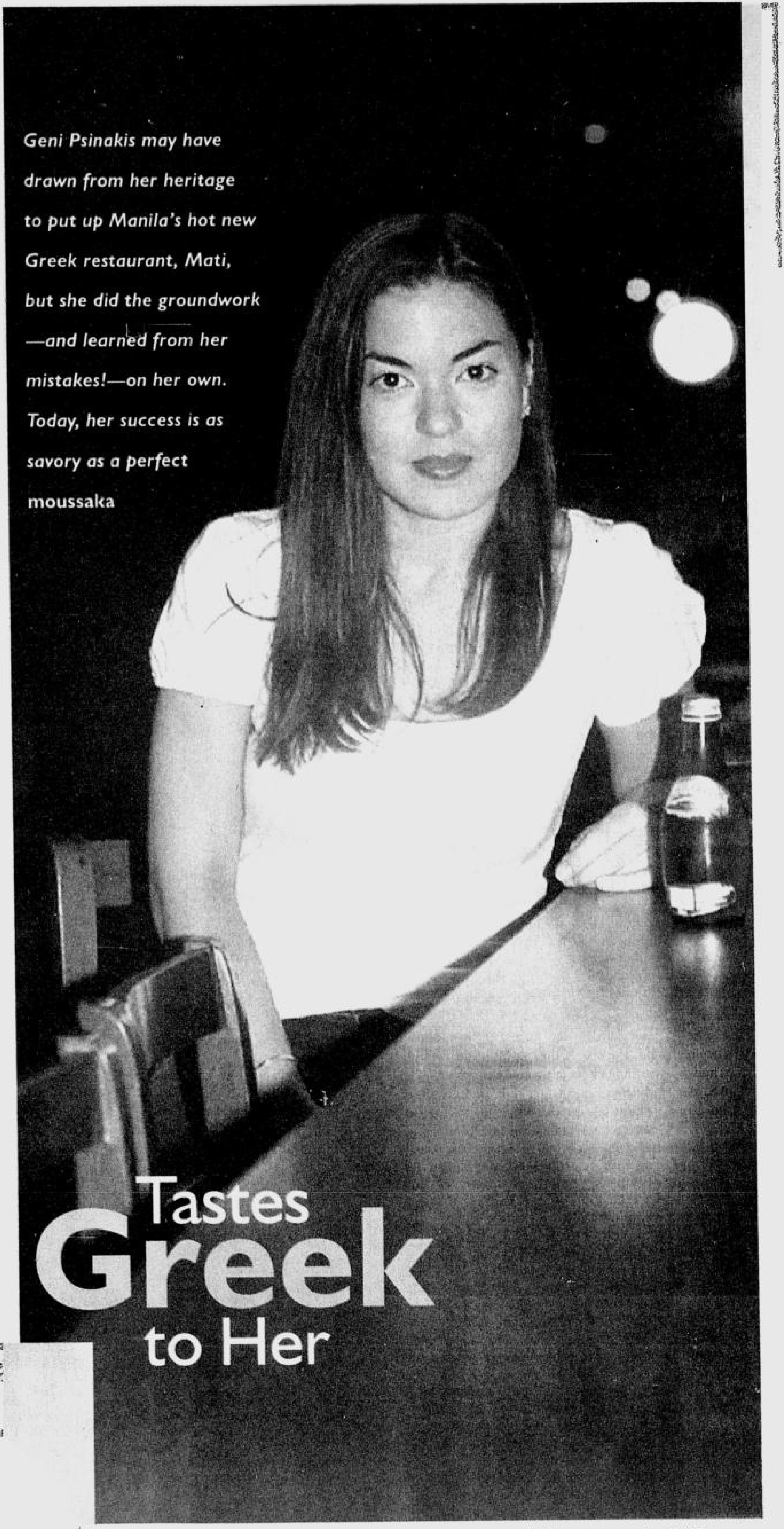
Foodies

Tastes Greek to Her

By Gina Abuyuan-Llanes
Photographs by Jim Guiao Punzalan

Geni Psinakis may have drawn from her heritage to put up Manila's hot new Greek restaurant, Mati, but she did the groundwork—and learned from her mistakes!—on her own. Today, her success is as savory as a perfect moussaka



IF YOU haven't been to—or even heard of—Mati, you're either cloistered as a Pink Sister or in a coma. The restaurant that opened barely two weeks before last Christmas is at the height of its nubile existence: during the day, people come to partake of the "authentic Hellenic cuisine," and at night, when Manila's jet set tunes in to their homing signals, all roads lead here.

The phenomenon of Mati debunks popular wisdom that Greek cuisine or culture has never sat well with Filipino tastes. Some of the credit goes to the image of Mati (located on the high-profile, bustling restaurant row of Rockwell's Powerplant); some of it goes to the wide menu selection, which features more than your usual *moussaka* and *falafel*. But a large part of it goes to Geni Lopez Psinakis and cousin Yorgos Psinakis, who chose not to listen to detractors and put up the place fully knowing "it was a risk."

Only 26 and having only lived in the Philippines for a total of seven years (five when she was young, the remaining two working in the Philippines and putting up Mati), Geni was never discouraged by the stories of failed predecessors. "They weren't done by Greeks, so maybe that's the difference."

Mati has the best of all worlds. Yorgos, who takes care of the "culinary aspect of the business," is 100% Greek. Half-Greek Geni, who takes care of the marketing and administrative work, is also half-Lopez, the charmed clan with fingers in every slice of the vast business pie of media, telecommunications, and real estate.

Mati wasn't born at a snap of a finger, however. Two years before Mati arrived, Geni worked with two companies of the Lopez group—Studio 23 and call center CQ—learning the management ropes and getting experience in sales. "Tough work. I have a lot of respect now for salespeople."

The daughter of Steve Psinakis, an engineer and now an executive of Lopez-owned Meralco who was a staunch oppositionist during the Marcos days, and Presy Lopez, Geni attended Boston College and Sta. Clara in San Francisco to major in English Literature. She didn't know it yet, but the rigorous training she received in sales would one day come in useful in running her own restaurant. "I learned to work with different kinds of people, and the people in the ad agencies—they're really always trying to milk you for stuff, to get the most for their money, so they really push you. For both jobs, I was on call 24 hours. And that sort of 24-hour attention is definitely coming into play right now. There's not one minute that I'm not thinking about the restaurant, or what needs to be done."

Since Mati opened on Dec. 14, 2001, Geni—a health buff and scuba diver—has not had one chance to resume her once-daily workout. "I used to work out almost everyday, at least 45 minutes. That's slipped away in the past three to four months. And just before I opened the restaurant, I had gotten my advanced diving certification. But I haven't gone back since."

Mati has become both her playground and office, when her friends and boyfriend, former model Raffy Ladao, come to keep her company. "Right now there's not much I can do with my free time, so I'm lucky. My friends come here a lot, so that's how I relax."

Geni is bringing a fresh vibe and tasty Hellenic dishes like this Greek Salad (left) to Manila through Mati

Her hands-on, open-door approach to running Mati is constantly progressing, even though the restaurant's tempo has already picked up a familiar beat and doesn't require her minute-by-minute presence. "Any time you're dealing with your staff, you're dealing with your ambassadors, executing your vision. With that, you can't relax."

For someone who could've relied on her family's clout to publicize and promote Mati, Geni decided to stay mum and let the place do its own talking. She has never approached any of the ABS-CBN publications or channels. Neither has she invited any critics to come and try the food on her progeny's behalf. Instead, she waited for food writer Doreen Fernandez to visit of her own will—and waited again patiently for the verdict (thumbs-up!). Her amazement at the power of the pen is almost amusing. "That article helped us a lot," she says, wide-eyed. "The people came—I couldn't believe that it could do that!"

With the same naiveté, Geni Psinakis also chose to embark on the venture without the business guidance of her parents, who used to run a deli in the financial district of San Francisco when Geni was little. The decision caused her the still-undisclosed but much-wondered-about investment that is Mati's interiors. The place was designed by Arch. Dan Lichauco and interior designer Miguel Rosales, with the frescoes painted by Judith Cervantes.

She lets out a nervous laugh. "I don't know if I can disclose a figure. Um, I'll just say more than I planned, and more than I projected and because this is my first time doing anything of this sort."

Then she rebounds with confidence, like an entrepreneur who has come to terms with the folly of her mistake. "It was really a pride thing. I wanted to do this completely on my own, and one of the things that backfired was that I didn't consult my parents. Now that it's done, I love their involvement, but while it was going on, I didn't really want their help. When my dad saw what we had spent, he said, 'Well, I knew this would happen, but you didn't listen to me, but it's OK, just chalk it up to experience.'"

Luckily, her parents are still as encouraging, with her father acting as Mati's "PR guy. It's sweet," she smiles. "My folks are always here, they're always helping out." Her brothers likewise invested "to show their support" (they choose to remain silent partners). She pegs her window for ROI "hopefully in three to five years," assuming that Mati will be able to follow the usual ROI trend of other restaurants, despite the expected industry dips.

In the meantime, it definitely seems like there's nothing to worry about. Mati has attracted a wide range of clients that sometimes overlap. Weekend lunches see whole families: grandparents, couples, and little children who can pronounce *kalamarakia* (fried baby squid) as easily as they can say "happy meal." Weeknights, Mati plays host to Brioni-suited businessmen and the corporate crowd for dinner or after-office drinks, who add to the bar crowd that holds court on weekend nights.

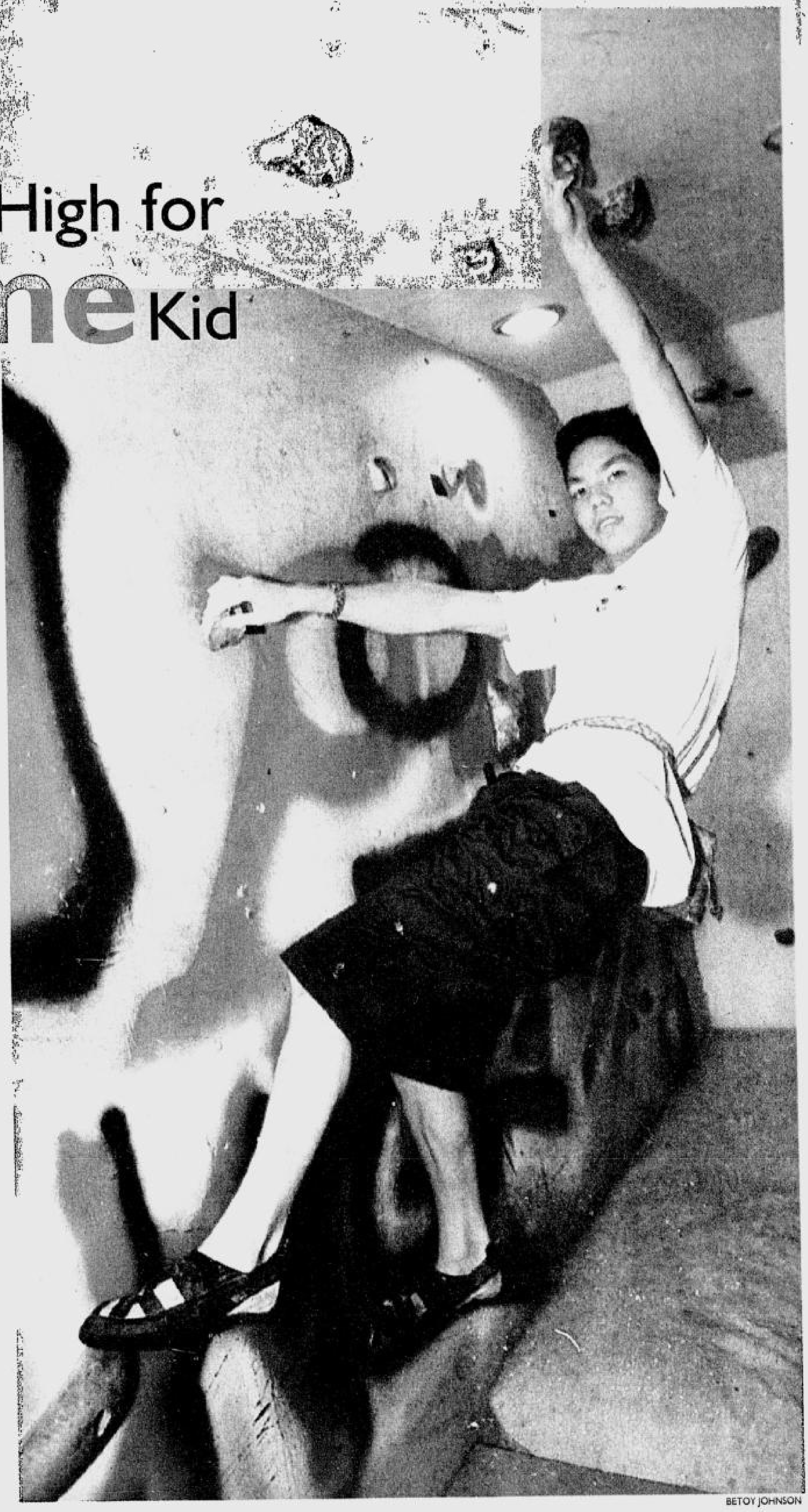
What you'll find in Mati is what you'll be offered in "any little hole in the wall *taverna*, on the beach, wherever in Greece," claims Geni. Mati's chefs keep true to the Mediterranean principle of keeping the dishes simple, straightforward, unpretentious and fresh. (Best bets: *youvetsi*, lamb with orzo pasta and tomato sauce for a fragrant, tender take on the otherwise musky, savory meat; or *psari psito*, fillet of gindara with rosemary, lemon, garlic, and extra virgin olive oil.) The Greek summer salad is also a bestseller. Again refuting common belief that Pinoy palates don't appreciate Greek cuisine, Geni says Mati's clients "are taking to it even more, it's exceeding our expectations. The people just went crazy when we opened here. People have been reacting positively and very openly."

Does this mean Metro Manila will be seeing another Mati open soon? "No," Geni answers. "I don't think we're going to, because it's specialized. We'd like to keep it unique, to just have one resto like this." With this business move, Daddy would be proud.

Young Achievers

By John Aguilar

No Wall Too High for Xtreme Kid



BETOY JOHNSON

WHILE most kids his age hang out at the local Internet café after school to spend countless hours on network gaming, Andrew Robles has chosen a different path. This 15-year-old Ateneo high school sophomore—standing a mere five feet two inches—has chosen to dedicate a considerable part of his young life to breaking new ground in the extreme world of sportclimbing.

Few people know that this kid from Marikina is the best junior sportclimber in Asia today, beating the best in the field to emerge as last year's overall sportclimbing champion in the Asian Junior X-Games held in Phuket, Thailand.

He placed first in the bouldering category, an event where climbers are required to traverse a three-story wall, at times using no other part of their body but their arms—a true test of strength, grit and concentration. In the speedclimbing category, Andrew placed an impressive third overall, which eventually made him the overall champion.

This, however, isn't a story of how a young man overcame countless struggles to scale the heights of success. In fact, one could say that Andrew's climb to the top was a relatively easy one.

He was a natural, observed spectators during the summer of '97—the first time Andrew took to the wall as an 11-year-old neophyte. "I saw it on ESPN and I figured I wanted to do that," he muses. An uncle knew of a climbing center in Pasig called Power Up, and decided to take his nephew there. The rest, as they say, is history.

Though admitting that he felt scared the first time he looked down while scaling his first wall, Andrew knew instinctively that he was doing what he had always wanted to do. "It was just a bit more to the top and I decided to finish it," he says. There was never a moment of hesitation after that, and he would eventually get hooked and come back for more.

He climbed with straight arms (not bent, as most beginners are inclined to do), knew how to keep his balance, and knew how to divert his weight to his legs—one of the most critical and basic techniques of sportclimbing. "I felt pretty good about my progression, and I wouldn't get stuck," he says. He would advance to the next level every week, and eventually got good enough to start winning competitions.

When the opportunity to compete in the 2000 Asian Junior X-Games came by, advisers discouraged him from taking it. "I felt I was ready for it, but some people thought otherwise," he laments.

A year of rigorous training and mental preparation followed. This Green Day fan—who can do chin-ups using only one finger from each arm—worked hard for another chance at the Junior X-Games. "I was pretty confident because I was already ranking nationally with the older guys," he says. Eventually, after completely obliterating the local field in the junior category and demolishing doubts about his abilities and talent, he saw his chance and grabbed it.

Along with five other sportclimbers and a lone skateboarder, the Philippine Asian X-Games Team flew to Phuket, Thailand to banner the Philippine flag. Andrew remembers that the trip "felt more like a vacation," as the organizers and other X-Games athletes tried to make them as comfortable as possible.

Andrew remembers meeting his competitors for the first time and being intimidated by their size. "They were really big!" he recalls. "I felt kinda bad, since I'm short for my age."

The size factor was another challenge Andrew had to face up to, but the decision to focus on nothing else but the climb was one of the factors that helped his rise to the top.

The competition was no walk in the park. Climbers had to overcome eight different walls of varying difficulty through a series of elimination rounds. Andrew recalls being down after failing to finish a wall during one of his practice climbs. "I lost my confidence and I was depressed at the hotel room," he narrates. The next day, though seriously in doubt of his abilities, Andrew pretended that nothing was bothering him. He eventually finished the wall he failed to climb the previous day and won the gold in a three-way split with Malaysia and Australia.

Andrew's low-profile attitude, despite his achievements and exceptional talents, is probably one of the qualities that sets him apart from other extreme athletes. His X-Games experience opened his eyes to the cultural differences that exist even among our Asian neighbors. "It made me realize that Filipinos have better values and we're more respectful," he says of the manner in which other Asians accepted their victory. "We were pretty humble, compared to the others."

The youngest in a brood of three equally talented athletes, Andrew says that a major factor for his success can be attributed to his parents, businessman Robert and Angela Robles. "Compared to the parents of most athletes, they're really supportive." So supportive, in fact, that his parents actually invested in a wall of their own, and are now part-owners of the Red Point Climbing Gym located beside the Riverbanks parking area in Marikina.

Red Point, which boasts of the highest wall in the country at 44 feet, is now the regular training base of Andrew, where he trains four hours a day during weekdays and six hours during Saturdays.

Andrew is now banned from competing in local junior events simply because he is over-qualified. Currently ranked 6th in the open division, he narrowly missed a slot in the men's national team.

One of his biggest regrets is not having had the time to take up track and field, where he was seriously being considered for the pole vault event because of his strong upper body and mastery of the fear of heights.

"To be No. 1 within a year" is a statement you would hardly expect to hear from a 15-year-old high school sophomore, especially when some of his competitors are seasoned veterans even before he was learning to add and subtract.

This coming summer season may be the make or break season for Andrew, as he is seriously contemplating either going for the top spot, or just taking it easy to prepare himself for the equally high demands of his Ateneo education.

"I don't know if I should train harder or just concentrate on school," he says with a smile. When it comes to priorities, however, "School always comes first. At least, I always try."

He tells aspiring climbers: "Have fun, and always try to be yourself. Don't put a standard on your capabilities, because you can do anything you put your mind into."

The attitude tells you that indeed, Andrew has only just begun his climb to the top.

At 15, Andrew Robles has broken new ground in the extreme world of sportclimbing, emerging as last year's overall sportclimbing champion in the Junior X-Games in Thailand. Clearly, this high school sophomore is destined for greater heights

Trailblazers

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau
Photographs by EV Espiritu

Eggs-traordinary Athlete

He consumes a tray of eggs a day, tons of bananas, carabao meat, fish and camote in training. More than food, however, it's painful workouts that make a difference, says Baguio-based bodybuilder Sammy Ayochok

LECHE FLAN makers and devotees of Sta. Clara should start flocking to the gym of Sammy Ayochok in Baguio City once he starts his bid in earnest for the Mr. Universe title this year in Athens, Greece.

Ayochok, who has the best chance this year among Filipino bodybuilders (or Asians for that matter) to bag the crown that once rested on the heads of Arnold Schwarzenegger and Lou "Incredible Hulk" Ferrigno, can consume a tray of eggs a day.

That's 30 eggs, though he eats only the white. And that's still one big meringue pie.

"That's the purest protein you can get. Compared with expensive imported supplements, I'd rather go for the eggs," he said.

He also eats tons of bananas, *camote* (sweet potato), fish and carabao meat six months before the contest.

But Ayochok's muscles and statistics (18-inch neck, 52-inch chest, 38-inch hips, 30-inch waist and 26-inch thighs) still require hours of painful workout.

On October 6 last year, Ayochok placed fourth in the open division of the 2001 Mr. Universe tilt in Macon, France. In the finals, Ayochok, at 5'4", was the smallest among the eight finalists and the only Asian, but he held his ground, getting a lot of applause.

"My lack of preparation cost me dearly. I even cut my hair not knowing that everyone would also go bald," he said while watching the contest's videotape at his gym at the Asia Fitness Center in Baguio City. Ayochok had to cut short his training in July last year when his father died.

Ayochok almost made it as "He-Man, Master of the Universe" a lot of times. He placed third twice in the Mr. Universe contests in Madrid in 1987 and in Shanghai in 1994. He also placed third in the Mr. World tilt in Athens and seventh in the Professional Universe Championships in England in 1997.

Without a doubt, Ayochok ruled Asia. He won the gold medal in the Asian Bodybuilding Championships in Taipei in 1986, in Malaysia in 1987, and in Singapore in 1988. He won the gold medal in the Oceania Open Bodybuilding Championships in Melbourne, Australia, in 1997 and the Asian Professional Bodybuilding Championships in Hong Kong in 1994.

Back when the Southeast Asian Games included bodybuilding among the events in Jakarta in 1987, Ayochok won that, too.

As anyone would know by now, Ayochok is no spring chicken. He turned 46 last March 24 and yet he can still beat guys half his age in any bodybuilding contest.

"Bodybuilding is a game where a David can beat a Goliath. When I compete, I am never intimidated. It's not how big you are. I've beaten many bodybuilders far bigger and younger than me. What's funny is, as I get older, I get stronger. What I can lift now, I couldn't lift 20 years ago," Ayochok said.

SIMEON "Sammy" Ayochok was a 19-year-old judoka for the University of Baguio in 1975 when he tried weightlifting and caught the eye of the late city councilor and bodybuilder Nick Domalsin, who owned the Baguio Fitness Club. Domalsin encouraged the young Ayochok to join the National Bodybuilding Championships in Manila that year.

Ayochok won the junior division in 1976 and the senior division in 1977. Also in 1977, Ayochok won the gold medal in the Asean Bodybuilding Championship.

But Ayochok decided to work in Hong Kong in 1980 as a fitness consultant for such fitness gyms as the Kowloon Club and the Raffles Club. He returned to Baguio just in time to experience the July 1990 earthquake.

"I left my three daughters here and now they have grown," he said. After setting up his fitness gym here in 1991, Ayochok decided to compete internationally.

"It's back to the basics for me. No computer enhancing programs and instant gratifications. Just painful workouts," he said.

The only child of parents from Bontoc, Mt. Province, Ayochok said Cordillerans usually excel in bodybuilding and martial arts because they have a very high tolerance for pain.

He himself would lift and pull weights eight hours a day a couple of months before a major contest. He also goes by the three Ds: desire, devotion and discipline.

"You must also be honest with yourself," he said. "You have to find ways to propel yourself better than the bigger guys."

Ayochok also knows how to work the crowd. In the Mr. Universe competitions, he usually lags behind during the symmetry and comparison poses but picks up points during the one-minute optional poses which is similar to the free floor exercises for gymnasts and skaters.

Samir Bannout, a former Mr. Universe also known as the "Lion of Lebanon," said Ayochok has tremendous stage charisma. It also helped that Ayochok is a good friend of international martial arts superstar Bolo Yeung.

With Schwarzenneger, Ferrigno and former Mr. Philippines Roland Dantes churning out movie after movie, could Ayochok be far behind?

"No, I have no illusions," he said. What's coming soon, he added, is "major pain."

That should at least ensure that Sammy A. doesn't end up with egg on his face. ◘

This Week

Art

Observatory, a two-part, two-gallery exhibit of new works by Roberto Chabet will be on view at Finale Art Gallery and West Gallery at SM Megamall from April 4 to 16.

Recent & Vintage Photographs, an exhibit of black and white portraits taken in Manila and the US, and color photographs of street life in Manila in the late '70s by San Francisco-based photographer Butch Baluyut at The Luz Gallery, Locsin, Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City until April 6.

Foundations of Gold, an exhibit of contemporary art and craft made by artists from six cities of the Asia/Pacific region all working with gold at the Metropolitan Museum, Roxas Boulevard, Manila until May 4.

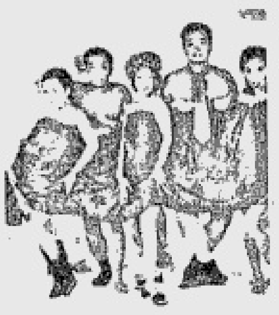
Matrix features the works of 17 Filipino women artists namely Anita Magsaysay-Ho, Joan Edades, Virginia Flor Agbayani, Ivi Avellana-Cosio, Impy Pilapil, Roceli Valencia, Brenda Fajardo, Anna Fer, Imelda Cajipe-Endaya, Ofelia Gelvezon-Tequi, Julie Lluch, Nena Saguil, Paz Abad Santos, Susan Fetalvero-Roces, Maria Cruz, Araceli Limcaco Dans and Victoria Lobregat at the Ateneo Art Gallery, Loyola Heights, QC until May 17.

Music

Two of a Kind, Novo Concertante Manila and the University of the Assumption President's Choir join voices in a night of beautiful choral music on April 3, 7 p.m. at the Aldaba Hall, UP Diliman. Tickets at P200 are available at the gate. For inquiries, call 0917-5356218 or 0918-3215432.

Onstage

Bedfull of Foreigners, Repertory Philippines' production of Dave Freeman's comedy directed by Zeneida Amador, will run from April 4-14 at the William J. Shaw Theater, 5/L, Shangri-La Plaza, Edsa and will move to the Carlos P. Romulo Theater, RCBC Yuchengco Tower, Ayala Avenue, Makati on April 18 until the 28th. For reservations, call 633-4821 to 25.



Rep Philippines' "Bedfull of Foreigners"

Intramuros Evenings Performing Arts Series presents **PETA's Dulaang Laboratoryo** on April 5, 6:30 p.m. at the Dulaang Rajah Sulayman in Fort Santiago. Featuring three scripts from PETA's pool of writers: "Unang Niyebe ng Nobyembre" written by Alfonso Dacanay based on "The Day the Dancers Came" by Bienvenido N. Santos; "Of Shadows" written by Sacha Calagopi based on "I See My Shadow on the Pavement" by Lakambini Sitoy; "Kulay" written by Ian Lomongo based on "Colours" from the book "White Turtle" by Merlinda Bobis. Free admission. For inquiries, please call tel. 527-2961 or 527-3138.

Atbp

Camplikasan, a summer camp for kids and parents organized by Haribon Foundation that includes a nature appreciation with parent and child bonding activity open to children 7-12 years old. To be held on April 6-8 at Biak-na-Bato National Park. For details, call 434-8237 and 925-3332.

The Cultural Center of the Philippines launches the **Arts Conservatory Summer 2002**, a series of workshops to be held from April 16 to May 31 at the CCP. The Conservatory offers beginning, advanced and master classes in the various artistic disciplines to be conducted by leading art professionals in the country. Courses include Theater Arts, Dance, Broadcast Arts and Visual Arts. For details, call 8323657 or 832-1125 loc. 1606.

Fitness Fortress' summer programs offer swimming for kids, ballet, streeetdance, ballroom dancing, Taekwondo, Judo, Freestyle Wrestling, Karatedo, aerobics and weight training from April to May. Registration ongoing until first week of April. For details, call 456-7476 or visit its office at the 3/F, Royal Midway Plaza, 419 Tandang Sora Ave., QC.

Don Bosco Technical Institute, Makati City presents ***Tuklas-Talino* Summer Workshop** on Creative Arts 2002. Courses offered are Theater Arts (Children, Teen, and Adult Theater), Creative Writing (Poetry Writing, Short Story Writing, and Scriptwriting) Creative Dance (Jazz), Voice (Solo and Choral). Enrollment from April 1-6 at the Accounting Office of DBTI Makati. For inquiries, call 892-0101 to 07 loc. 231 or 232.

Wedding Expo, a showcase of the latest trends and the newest styles in the biggest gathering of wedding suppliers from all over the country, April 6-7 at The NBC Tent, The Fort, Makati City. Those who wish to join the list of exhibitors for the fair may call 371-9783 or 410-0032.

Flowers from the Wedding Expo at the Fort

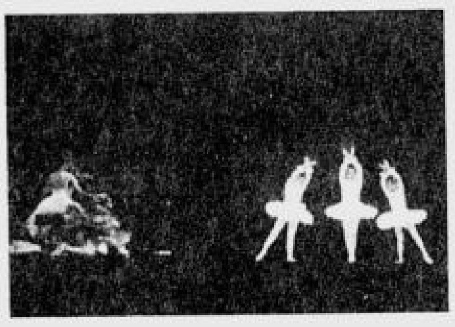
Pals@pages Creative Writers Group will hold a **Fiction for Beginners** writing workshop on April 6 and Features Writing/Writing for Magazines workshop on April 13 at the Earthlite, 4/F COD Dept. Store Building, Cubao, QC. Fee inclusive of handouts and certificate. Also, a computer assembly workshop will be held on April 9 and 27. For details, call 417-1521 or text 0919-7405199.

Fernando B. Sena will hold a **summer art workshop** for kids, teens and adults starting April 6 at the following venues: Philippine Heart Center, Mab Hall, East Avenue, QC, Sundays, 9-11:30 a.m.; Jollibee, Roces Avenue cor. Quezon Avenue, 9-11:30 a.m.; National Kidney and Transplant Institute, East Avenue, QC, Mondays, 2:30-5 p.m.; J. Vargas Museum, UP Diliman, QC, Wednesday, 9-11:30 a.m.; 14-A Maalalahanin St., Teacher's Village, QC, Thursdays, 9-11:30 a.m. and Philippines Medical Women's Association Building, V. Luna Road, cor. Malakas Street, Saturdays, 9-11:30 a.m. Lessons include basic and advanced drawing and painting of varied subjects. For details, call 925-8801 and 924-6425.

Country Waffles Annapolis, Greenhills and Eastwood, Libis together with the artists of Gantimpala Theater join hands in offering **Children's and Teens' Musical Theater Workshops** from April 3 to May 19. Meanwhile, two workshops will be exclusively held at the Gantimpala Theater Makati office: Voice and Singing for Children, Teens and Adults from April 12 to May 25 and Stage and Production Management from April 14 to May 26. For details, call 897-1533 or 895-8314.

Enrolment is ongoing for CCP Dance School **summer dance workshop** for classical and modern ballet, creative movement, improvisation and street jazz. Ballet Philippines also offers a lecture series on dance history, ballet terminology, pedagogy, anatomy and music for dancers. The last audition for scholarships is on April 1 at 5 p.m. at the CCP Rehearsal Hall. Workshop starts April 2 and culminates with a recital on May 2 and 3 at the CCP Main Theater. There will be also be special courses on tae-bo, wushu and arnis. For details, call 551-1003 or 551-0221.

Ballet Philippines' summer dance workshop at the CCP



Artist Pol A. Mesina Jr. will conduct **art workshops** for children, youth and adults at the following venues: God's Little Angels Development Center Inc., 265 Sunset Drive Brookside Hills Subd., Cainta, Rizal from April 6-May 25 (tel. 655-2517); Gallery 101, 2/F Kaimo Bldg., 101 Quezon Ave., QC from April 3-May 22 (tel. 410-0159); Aheadstart Child Development Center, 72 San Rafael St., Bo. Kapitolyo, Pasig City from April 2-May 21 (tel. 631-9548).

Learn to make your own soft doll or shape terracotta figures. You can also do imprints to create your greeting cards with a printing press. The UP Vargas Museum is offering fun **art workshops** for children and adults beginning April 3. For details, call Linda Pabico at 928-1927 or 920-5301 loc. 7408.

Former editors, writers, illustrators and graphic artists of the Malate Literary Folio, the student literary publication of De La Salle University, are invited to submit their best works for a forthcoming anthology **In Greener Pastures: An Anthology of Contemporary Writing and Art** scheduled for publication within the year. All submissions must be postmarked on or before April 15. For inquiries about submission and subscription, call 454-5077 or email crazyplanets@hotmail.com.

Arts-Crafts Workshops: Art for Life and Leisure workshop for children, teenagers and adults, April 8 to May 15 at 23 Kanlaon St., Quezon City; Children's Art-Crafts workshop, April 4 to May 14 at Child's World: A Growing Center, 732 Amoranto Ave., Quezon City; Summer Art-Crafts workshop for kids 7 years old and above at Lakeshore Drive, Tanay, Rizal on April 27, May 11 and May 25. For details, call 740-5315 and 731-7352.

Understanding Autism: A guide for parents and professionals, April 11-May 13 at Asian Social Institute, Leon Guinto, Manila. Seminar fee is P3,500. For inquiries, call St. Dymphna SpEd Consultancy Center at 253-6336 or 233-3645.

X-manila

There will be an **Easter Egg Hunting** today from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at SBMA Business Center and Fun Kite Flying from 2 to 6 p.m. at the Boardwalk, SBMA, Subic Bay Freeport Zone sponsored by St. Anne Academy Alumni Association. The event is open to everybody. For details, call Susan Valdez Edrosolo at (047) 223-8607 or 0919-7287173.

Reprieve, an exhibit of new works in acrylic and pen and ink sketches by Joan Edades at the Genluna Gallery, 12 General Luna St., Davao City until April 6.

Drawing and painting lessons for beginners and advanced classes by artist Boy Carneo will start on April 5 and 6 at gallery 8.12 in Biñan, Laguna and at the Big Ben Complex, Lipa City. For inquiries, call (02) 698-2997 or (043) 757-2009.

Linangan ng Kasaysayang Bayan, Eskuwela sa Tag-init, a five-day intensive course on 10 themes of Philippine history from prehistoric to contemporary times sponsored by Adhika ng Pilipinas Inc. on April 15-21 at the National Food Authority Staff House and Training Center, Loakan Road, Baguio City. Registration fee is P5,500. Interested History and Social Studies teachers may address their inquiries to Prof. Ferdinand C. Llanes, Faculty Center 2019, UP Campus, Diliman, Quezon City or call (02) 926-1088 or 924-2966.

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

The New Voice of Summer

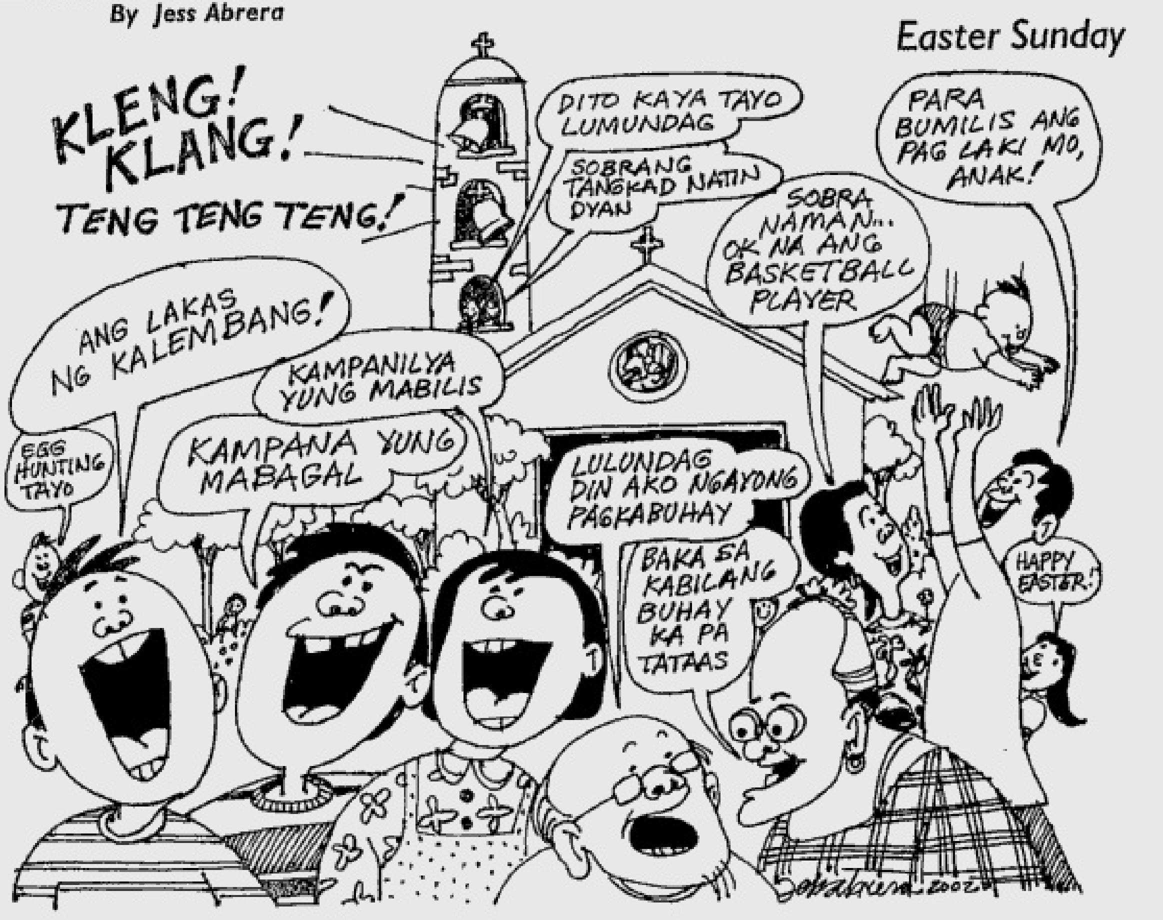
The New Voice Company keeps busy with new summer workshops

New Voice Company announces a new workshop series born from the tremendous demand and impact "The Vagina Monologues" and VDay have had—the Empowerment Workshops, which will begin on April 1 and will run for eight weeks. The workshops will cover an in-depth analysis of the "The Vagina Monologues" text, improvising the content within Filipino realities for women, discussing marketing and promotional strategies for a show like "TVM," focusing on empowering young women and men through creative and dramatic theatrical works. Other classes are theater workshops for adults, teens and kids, Stage/Production Management and Directing. The NVC is also announcing auditions for its next production—"Falsettos The Musical." For inquiries, call 896-6695 or 896-5497.

Pinoy Nga

By Jess Abrera

Easter Sunday


KLENG! KLANG!
TENG TENG TENG!
DITO KAYA TAYO LUMUNDAG
SOBRANG TANGKAD NATIN DYAN
PARA BUMILIS ANG PAG LAKI MO, ANAK!
SOBRA NAMAN... OK NA ANG BASKETBALL PLAYER
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...from page 8

chef for a computer magazine and a plastic surgeon in an Australian commercial for potato chips. This is bread and butter for any actor, with income from royalties coming in for the life of the ad.

He has also appeared in a slew of films for both TV and the cinema – playing anything from a lawyer in "Jimmy Fizz" to a drug baron in "51st State" starring Samuel Jackson and Meatloaf. He plays an orthopedic surgeon in "Casualty," Britain's answer to "ER." It's a "repeating character" – the character appears more than once in the series – which assures at least an occasional television appearance in the top-rating drama.

"I was not expecting to be that busy," confessed Junix, happy and somewhat relieved at his success.

But then, in moribund 1996, fresh from the success of "Miss Saigon," he had expected "doors will open for me" – and they didn't.

Theater as a profession may be fickle and unreliable, but it will always be Junix's first love. "It is that instant contact with your audience all the time and the applause at the end that's food for the heart," says Junix. "In film and TV, you never know what you're going to be like until you see yourself on the screen. In theatre, you have a rehearsal period where you have the chance to study your character. I admire people who are so good at film and TV. I think it is more difficult."

He remembers walking onto a film set in the Philippines and approaching the director. "*O, direk ano ang gagawin natin ngayon*? (What are we doing today?)"

"*Sandali lang*," the director said, scribbling away furiously on his folder, "*sinusulat ko lang ang* dialogue (Wait a minute, I'm just writing the dialogue)."

Theater has always at the forefront of Junix's mind. He took up Theater at Siliman University and worked for the university theater when he graduated. On the side, he had a singing comedy duo with a friend, Paul Palmore, a kind of Visayan stand-up.

The two tried their luck in Manila in 1978 and did the rounds of folk houses — My Father's Moustache, The Red Cow, Hobbit House. Junix lived with relatives in Manila and helped out in their business. But Paul couldn't make ends meet with their nightly earnings. He eventually left to study in the States.

Says Junix, "I didn't want to do singing by myself so I tried out for "Fiddler on the Roof," which was being put out by Repertory Philippines. I knew the musical back to front." He played Lazar Wolf, the butcher who was engaged to the oldest daughter, and stayed with Repertory for 11 years.

The director Ishmael Bernal was in the audience during one of the Rep plays. "He approached me afterwards and asked if I wanted to do movies," says Junix. "I said, sure." Bernal gave him an address, and that led to a hotel, and the scene was taking place in one of the hotel bedrooms. The movie was "*Aliw, Sir?*" a sex film starring then newly launched starlet Lorna Tolentino. Junix's first movie role? Lorna Tolentino's sleazebag client.

"My first ever film scene was a bed scene with Lorna Tolentino," said Junix. "Bernal purposely didn't tell me. When I arrived, he just said, 'We're just waiting for Lorna T.' Hours later, Lorna turns up and Bernal says to me, 'O, ready *ka na, sige, maghubad ka na*. (Are you ready? Take your clothes off.)' I remember they stopped filming, I was so tense, and Bernal told me, 'Junix, *halikan mo naman siya*. (Kiss her, Junix)' I think he was having fun at my expense."

Does Junix regret leaving the small pond that was Manila for the bigger, tougher pond of London? "I don't regret anything," he says. "I have always said things will turn out for the best.

"Well, I am 51 this year," says Junix with characteristic optimism. "I'm still hoping to do more TV. I might take a course in cinematography. I'm writing a film script right now, for a Philippine audience. London still has so much to offer. London has become more accessible to artists of color. There have been so many shows with multicultural casts. Pinoy talent is now recognized here."

"Cats" has a half-hour intermission during which Old Deuteronomy remains seated on stage. Autograph seekers and groupies seize the moment to approach the actor in his shaggy coat, glued on facial fur, and face paint. It is a time when Junix gets real contact with his audience, signing autographs and talking to those brave enough to mount the stage of the New London Theatre in Covent Garden.

During one of these intermissions, he noticed a matronly Japanese woman bowing to him from the end of the stage and holding out something for him. He gestured for the woman to come up the stage, thinking she wanted an autograph. The woman made her way to him, respectfully bowing all the way while holding up the offering in her hand. After inching up the stage, she finally reached him and presented him with her gift.

It was a bowl of catfood.

It may have been a surreal moment but hey, this was the ultimate compliment for an actor. For Junix as Old Deut had convinced a member of his audience that he was, indeed, a real cat.

Junix Inocian returns to Manila in August to appear in "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe" and to attend his daughter's wedding.

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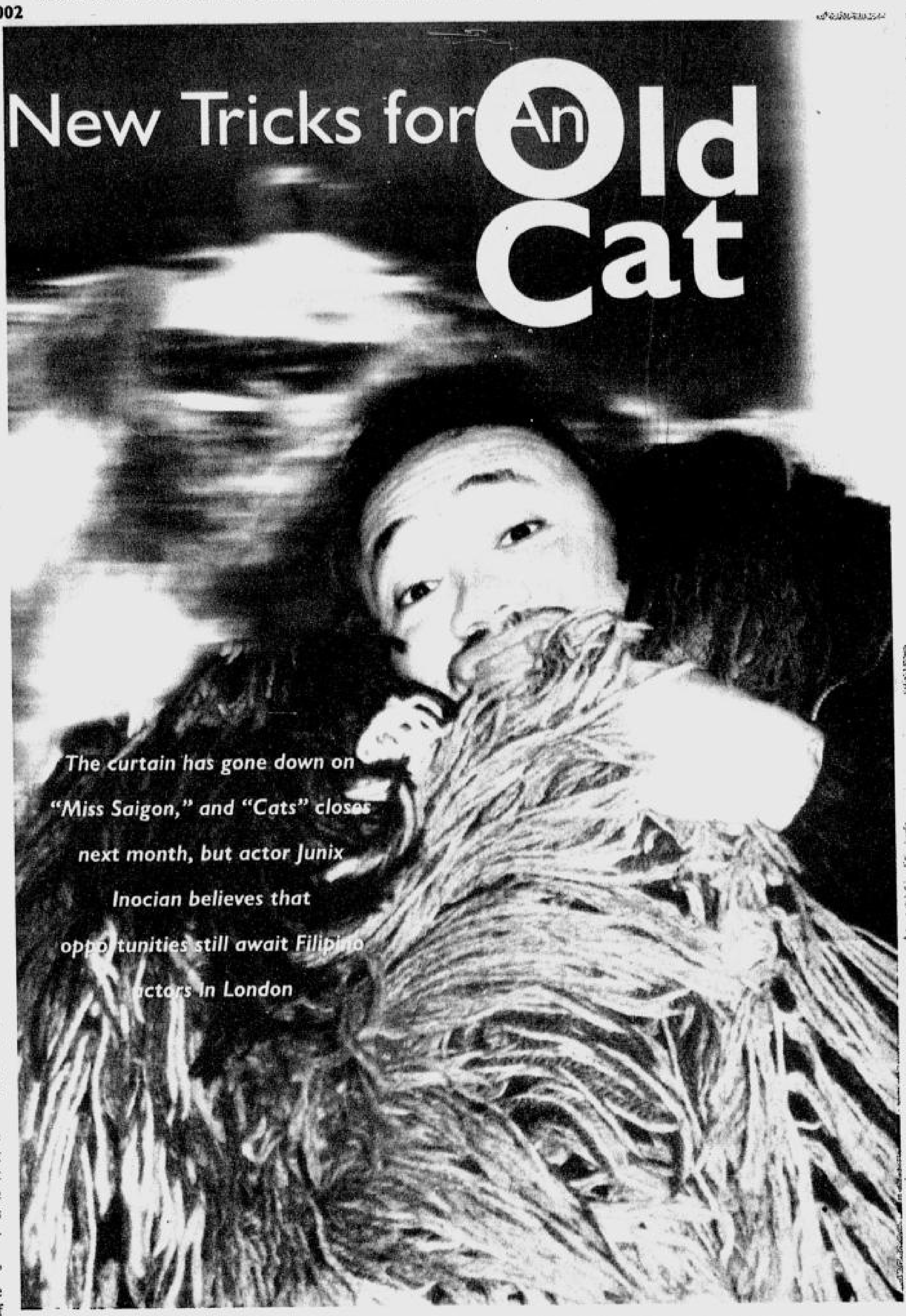
Theater Tales

Text and Photographs by
Candy Quimpo-Gourlay

New Tricks for An Old Cat



The curtain has gone down on "Miss Saigon," and "Cats" closes next month, but actor Junix Inocian believes that opportunities still await Filipino actors in London

> *"Old Deuteronomy's lived a long time*
> *He's a cat who has lived many lives in succession."*
> From *"The Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats"* by
> **TS Eliot**

A LONG, long time ago, in a city far, far away, Junix Inocian was hanging out with a bunch of stage friends, listening to the latest musical to rock the Western stage. "We were listening to 'Cats,' dreaming about performing in it," Junix recalls, "but our dream was that they would bring 'Cats' to Manila and we'd get a chance to be in it."

The talk turned to what role Junix would play. As the owner of the only non-twinkling toes in the group (all the others could dance), Junix would have fallen at the first audition for this hard-dancing, high flying musical. Someone suggested Junix can be Deuteronomy, an old cat who doesn't have to dance.

That was the 1980s. Two years past the turn of the 21st century and "Cats" – the longest-running and second most profitable musical in both the West End and Broadway – is closing after 21 years. Ironically, the non-dancing Junix will be party to the historic musical's final curtain call on May 11, 2002.

Junix left a successful acting career in the Philippines to join the original cast of "Miss Saigon" in 1989. At the time, he said, "It was not fame I was looking for anymore. I just wanted to try acting in Britain and see if I can make it. I have always said that Filipino talent is something to be reckoned with. I think I was trying to show that we are really world class."

. From chorus roles as a Vietnamese bystander and an American serviceman in "Miss Saigon," Junix came to perform the lead part of the Engineer. And "Cats" features Junix performing as Old Deuteronomy. But like "Old Deut" (as "Cats" cast and crew like to call him), Junix is one cat who has lived many lives in succession – and not all as satisfying as his arrival in the West End in 1989.

After his contract with "Miss Saigon" ended in 1995, Junix moved on to "Cats," determined to make it in London. At the time, Leo Valdez had taken over as the Engineer. When Leo left after six months, Junix was asked to return to "Miss Saigon" to cover for another actor who needed to finish a contract before taking up the role of the engineer. Three months turned into six. When at last he finished the stint, he discovered that the other work he had been counting on had dried up.

The closure of "Miss Saigon" in 1995 was buffered by the opening of the extravagant "The Lion King" and "The King and I," a mainstay of Pinoy Broadway aspirations (the first "King and I" on Broadway boasted of a few Filipinos in the cast). Filipino actors in London were hoping these plays would be the cherries on the pie of their West End adventure.

"I was too fat to audition for the King in the 'King and I,'" joked Junix, "If they took me they would have had to re-title it 'The King and I and the Elephant.'" But even the role of "The Lion King's" warthog, Pumbaa, eluded him.

It was a drought that almost broke him. "I was so depressed for months and months and months," he said. "It was like six months of no work."

Stage magic: Junix (top) is transformed into Old Deuteronomy

His wife Annie, an administrator for a mortgage consultancy in Hampstead, decided enough was enough. "She said, pack your bags, go home, and get some work there."

Manila did not disappoint. Junix appeared in the television program "Parents' Guide" for almost a year. He appeared in the David Hasselhoff action film "Legacy," starring MTV presenter Donita Rose. He also starred in "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," the musical written by his ex-wife Luna Inocian, who acts as his agent-manager when he is working at home.

"Luna and I have become friends again since we separated," says Junix. Luna and Junix have three grown up children. "When I introduce Luna to people, I say she is my ex-wife and now she's my manager," he said. "It doesn't make any difference because she is still running my life."

Junix's daughter JR, 29, runs a lodging house for girls in Iligan City. Son JC, 24, performs and writes music for a band, and Jamie, 19, is studying Stage Technology at St. Benilde's in Manila. Junix and Annie's nine-year-old son, Yñaqui, looks up to this older set of siblings.

The work in Manila revived his hunger to work in London. "I was missing my family in London who only stayed in Manila for short periods and had to return because of work and school."

His agent at that time phoned him from London and said there was a part for him in a movie. Unfortunately, a problem with his ticket got Junix back two weeks too late. The movie? "Entrapment" starring Catherine Zeta Jones and Sean Connery.

Surreally, Junix's ill wind finally turned at an audition for, of all things, a part in a computer game. "The product was British Petrol and I auditioned to be a character in this non-commercial educational game about the environment distributed to schools. I was auditioning to be a virtual reality person!"

Junix paused outside the audition room door, reflecting on the strangeness of the situation when a woman approached him. "She asked if I was an actor and if I was looking for representation," he recalled. "Since I was already planning to move from my then agent, I agreed to meet them. Since I joined them, it's been a wonderful ride!"

His new agents, Kristin Tarry and Rachel Cranmer-Gordon of TCG Artists Management had just broken off from a big agency and set up on their own. Unencumbered by the bureaucracy of a big company and fired by entrepreneurial enthusiasm, the new agents have kept Junix very, very busy. As a result, Junix has become a familiar face on British commercials — as a scientist in St. Ivel's yoghurts, a Chinese take-away

To page 7

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In the No. 1 best seller "Rich Dad Poor Dad", Robert T. Kiyosaki discussed the difference between his poor dad, who studied hard, sought a good JOB (Just Over Broke) and looked forward to his retirement pay, working hard daily for money, while his rich dad studied hard, created jobs, invested his money in real estate and looked forward to his passive income. The rich dad's top picks for real estate investments were FORECLOSURES.

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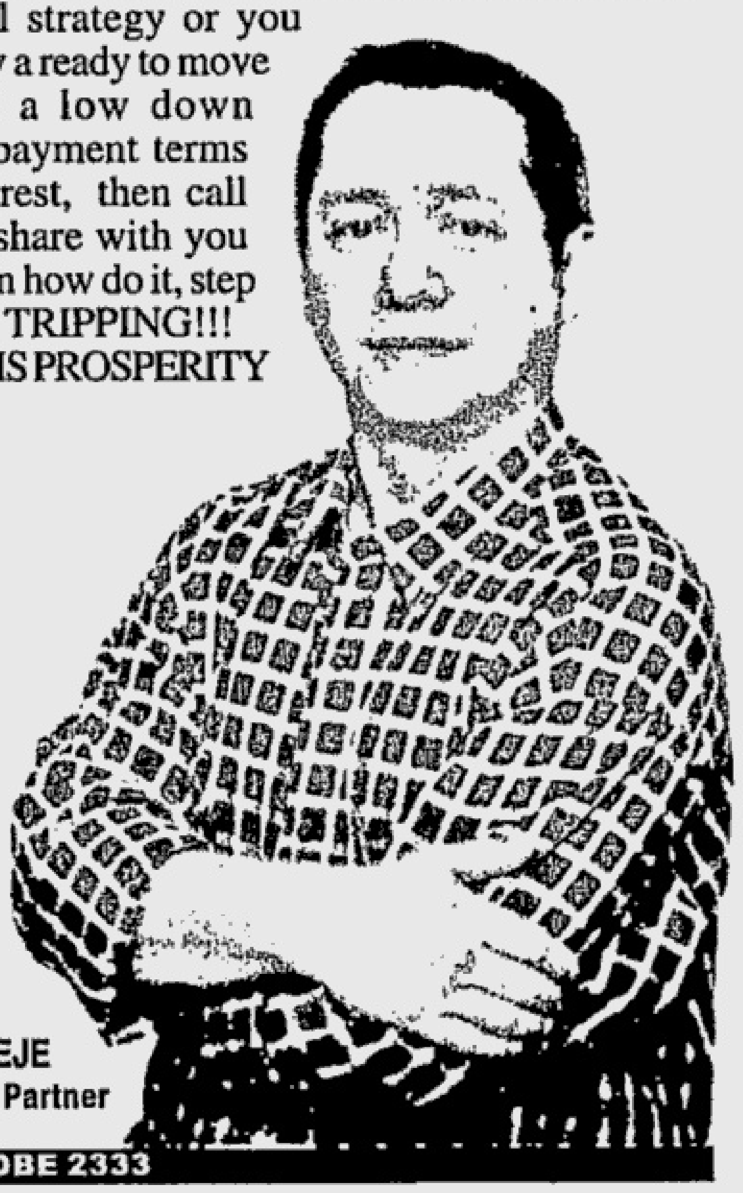

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Bagumbayan
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Bonifacio, Taguig
LA-3,010
P481,600,000.00

MARIKINA CITY

39.No.48 F. Balagtas St.,
Bgy. Parang
LA-2,401
P11,551,000.00

40.Longhorn St., Rancho
Estate I, Concepcion
LA-887
P2,001,000.00

MUNTINLUPA

41. Madrigal Buss. Park
Ayala Alabang Village
LA-1,689
P150,000,000.00

PARANAQUE CITY

42. Palace St. BF Homes,
Bgy. San Dionisio
LA-103,739
P354,540,460

QUEZON CITY

43.Aurora Blvd. Cor
Balete Drive, Cubao
LA-7,677.52
P187,923,700.00

44. 28 Sn Jose Seminary
Rd., Tandang Sora
LA-1,007
P15,105,000.00

45. Sacred Vil. Brgy.
Pasong Putik
LA-181
P1,800,000.00

46. Ramax Subdivision
Don Antonio
LA-418
P1,789,000.00

RIZAL

47.Sta. Barbara Luxury
Real Estates Subd.,
Mission Hills, San
Roque Mission
Hills Blvd.
5 lots @1,000 sqm UP
P4,455,000.00 UP

48. Sta.Monica II Classica
Estate Subd., Mission
Hills, Bgy. San Roque
LA-486
P2,589,000.00

49.Barrio Malinta
LA-1,141
P2,010,000.00

50. Monte Rosas
Executive Subd.,
LA-330
P835,000.00

51.Emerald Hills Subd.
Barrio Sta. Cruz
LA-590
P990,000.00

BATANGAS

52.Bo. Concepcion,
Batangas City
W/ 8 poultry houses
and 2 resthouses
LA-13,255
P15,134,000.00

CAVITE

53 Pasadena Heights
Bgy. Manggahan,
General Trias
607 lots @ 93 sqm. UP
P3,080.00 per sqm.

54.Ligtong, Rosario
24 lots @198,404 sqm
P128,962,000.00

55.Rodeo Countryside
Subdivision, Brgy.
Esperanza, Alfonso
14 lot @900 sqm. UP
P900,000.00/each UP

56.Bo. Bucal, Dasmarinas
3 lots @800 sqm. UP
P622,496.00/each UP

57.Talayan St., Camella
Spring Heights Subd.,
Molino, Bacoor
LA-324 sqm.
P972,000.00

58. Roses St., Camella
Homes Subd.,
Pinahan, Bacoor
LA-203
P678,000.00

LAGUNA

59.Paradise Valley
Farmlot Subd., Bgy.
Linao, Calauan
16 lots @2,383sqm. UP
P3,348,000.00/each UP

WAREHOUSES and BUILDINGS

MAKATI CITY

60.Durango Street
Brgy. Palanan
LA-210 FA-1,175
P20,963,000.00

MANILA

61. 2325 Espiritu Street
Sta. Ana
LA-300 FA-1,310
P11,629,000.00

PARANAQUE CITY

62. C.Palanca cor. E.
Gatches Streets
BF Homes
LA-766 FA-1,401.32
P26,000,000.00

BATANGAS

63. Daraza, Tanauan
LA-3,343 FA-2,054
P18,283,000.00

LAGUNA

64. Brgy. Diezmo,
Cabuyao
LA-45,300 FA-10,125
P185,000,000.00

BUYING PROPERTY??? Text TELL <space> PROPERTY <space> FORUM <space> to : SMART 211 - GLOBE 2333

PREMIERE BANK

A Thrift Bank

Properties For Sale

HOUSE & LOT

CALOOCAN

1. King Solomon St., Del Rey Village II, Camarin
LA-280 sq. m.

2. Lawin St., Amparo Novaville, Deparo
LA-240 sq. m.

LAS PINAS

3. Renault St., Veraville Homes 3-A Talon
LA- 241 sq. m.

4. Dama de Noche Ext. Dona Manuela Subd
LA-293 sq. m.

MALABON

5. Diaz St., N. Merville Park I Subd., Dampalit
LA-190 sq. m.

MANILA

6. San Jose St., Herbosa Ext., Tondo
LA-59.81 sq. m.

MARIKINA

7. Mt. Pleasant & Mt Everest St., New Marikina Subd.
Brgy. Elena LA-849

8. Zamora St., cor Paraiso, Parang
LA-745 sq. m.

MUNTINLUPA

9. Yakal St., Lakeview Homes II, Putatan
LA-225 sq. m.

10. Soldiers Hills Subd., Putatan
LA-200 sq. m.

11. Nat'l. Road, Lodora Village, Tunasan
LA-420 sq. m.

PARANAQUE

12. Exec. Hgts Subd. Brgy. Sun Valley
LA-282 sq. m.

13. Ilang-Ilang, Matatdo Subd., San Isidro
LA-285 sq. m.

14. Verseilles St., Annex 36, Betterliving Subd.
LA-246 sq. m.

15. Top Land Subd. Brgy. San Dionisio
LA-197 sq. m.

16. Maywood Village Severina Diamond
LA-340 sq. m.

QUEZON CITY

17. Maria St., F.B. de Jesus Subd., Damong Maliit , Novaliches
LA-276 sq. m.

18. Detriot St., Cubao
LA-300 sq. m.

19. Villa Nova Subd. Nagkaisa, Novaliches
LA-123 sq.m.

RIZAL

20. Antipolo Hills Subd. Bgy. Sn Luis, Antipolo
LA-120 sq. m.

21. Bermuda Hgts. Subd. San Luis, Antipolo
LA-258 sq. m.

22. Brookside Hills Subd. San Isidro, Cainta
LA-286 sq. m.

23. M. H. Del Pilar St. Sn Rafael, Montalban
LA-867 sq. m.

24. Palmera Homes 2, Dolores, Taytay
LA-183 sq. m.

BULACAN

25. Rosaryville Sbd. Brgy. Sta. Cruz, Guiguinto
LA-630 sq. m.

26. Brgy. Virgen delos Flores, Baliuag
LA-386 sq. m.

LAGUNA

27. Sn Roque, San Pedro
LA – 501 sq.m.

CAVITE

28. Int. Molino Road Molino 3, Bacoor
LA-304 sq. m.

29. Villanueva Subd. Brgy. Real, Bacoor
LA-180 sq. m.

30. Brgy. Sn. Andres 1 DBB Area C, Dasma
LA- 133 sq. m.

31. Acacia Hms. Rd. Burol II, Bago Bayan
LA-1,414 sq. m.

32. Poblacion 3,GMA, Cavite City
LA-275 sq. m.

33. Andrea Village, Brgy. Salitran, Dasma
LA-220 sq. m.

APARTMENT

RIZAL

34. Sto. Rosario, Milagros Subd., Antipolo
LA-299 sq. m.

35. Panganiban Cmpd. Dalig, Antipolo
LA-250 sq. m.

LAS PINAS

36. Sn Isidro Subd. Brgy. Pamplona
LA-320 sq. m.

MUNTINLUPA

37. Herrera St., Purok 1 Bayanan
LA-500 sq. m.

PASAY

38. Natividad St. Sta. Clara
LA-282 sq. m.

QUEZON CITY

39. Interior Baesa, Baesa Road
LA-160 sq. m.

TOWNHOUSE

QUEZON CITY

40. Towerville Homes Culiat, Tandang Sora
LA- 135 sq. m.

BUILDING

BULACAN

41. Balite Street Brgy. Balite, Malolos
LA-P683 sq. m.

CAVITE

42. Rodeo Hills Subd. Brgy. Sinaliw, Alfonso
LA-10,151 sq. m.

LAGUNA

43. Cataquiz Subd. Brgy. III, Sta. Rosa
LA-1,349.40 sq. m.

44. Maharlika Highway Brgy. Sn. Antonio 2, San Pablo City
LA-1,600 sq. m.

RIZAL

45. Interior Delos Santos Ampid, San Mateo
LA-1,089 sq. m.

46. Gregorio Hgts. Subd. San Isidro, Taytay
LA-500 sq. m.

CALOOCAN

47. Marcela St., Maypajo
LA-135 sq. m.

PARANAQUE

48. J. Gabriel St. cor. C Rivera St., Baclaran
LA-209 sq. m.

PASIG

49. Marcelo Avenue San. Antonio Village
LA-905 sq. m.

LOT

RIZAL

50. Nuestra Sra. Dela Paz Subd., Antipolo
LA-375 sq. m.

51. Tallong Balon, Brgy. Dela Paz, Antipolo
LA-1000 sq. m.

52. Santana Vill., Brgy. Hinapao Antipolo
LA-134 sq. m.

53. Vill. East Exec. Homes Mayamot, Antipolo
LA-204 sq. m.

BULACAN

54. Sn. Marcos Rd., Brgy. San Marcos, Calumpit
LA-1,100 sq. m.

CAVITE

55. Stateland Subd. Buenavista, Gen. Trias
LA-595 sq. m.

56. Astroville Subd., Brgy. Molino, Bacoor
LA-1,466 sq. m.

57. Cityland Hgts., Bo. Ulong Tubig, Carmona
2 Resd'l @LA-136 UP each

58. Cityland Garden Breeze Vill. VI, Trias, Cavite City
LA-332 sq. m.

LAGUNA

59. Spring Homes Subd. Ph. 3, Bucal, Calamba
LA-3,791 sq. m.

60. Brgy. Labuin, Pila
LA-29,810 sq. m.

BATANGAS

61. Brgy. San Sebastian Lipa City
LA-501 sq. m.

NUEVA ECIJA

62. ASC Ville 2000 Brgy. Bical, Munoz
19 Resd'l. lots available

CALOOCAN

63. Congressional Homesite Subd., Bagumbong
LA-300 sq. m.

PARANAQUE

64. St. Martin Village Brgy. San Antonio
Roadside adjoining lots

QUEZON CITY

65. Empire View Park Subd., Payatas Capitol District
2 lots @ 300 sq. m. each

66. Road 7, Project 6
LA-403.70 sq. m.

67. Detriot St., Cubao
2 lots @ 300 sq. m. each

68. Northwind Subdivision Nagkaisang Nayon Novaliches
LA-135 sq. m.

TAGUIG

69. Chikadee Curve, Baybreeze Exec. Village
LA-240 sq. m.

CONTACT PERSONS: **Ms. Kristianne S. Reyes**
Executive Asst. to the Chairman & President
Mr. Juan Miguel Reyes
Management Trainee

CONTACT NUMBERS:
852-3526 - 29
852-1187 / 852-3469

ADDRESS: **EDSA corner Magallanes Avenue, Makati**
Metro Manila, P.O. Box 2393

For more property details, contact us at our hotlines.

SECURITY BANK

LOW DOWNPAYMENT **EASY TERMS** **FAST APPROVAL**

HOUSE & LOT

QUEZON CITY

1. Masambahin St.,
Teachers Village
FA-113.1 LA-238.2
P3,700,000.00

2. Abelardo, Ideal
Subd., Capitol Dist.
FA-120 LA-498
P3,400,000.00

3. Mira Nila Subd.
FA-502.3 LA-522
P7,000,000.00

MARIKINA CITY

4. East Dr. Marikina
FA-308.6 LA-225.4
P2,500,000.00

TAGUIG

5. Holy Family Subd.
Bagong Bayan
FA-79 LA-520
P3,000,000.00

MALABON

6. Bonifacio St.,Bo. Fores
FA-357.8 LA:515
P8,300,000.00

BULACAN

7. Violeta Subdivision
Tabang, Guguinto
FA-170 LA-240
P1,700,000.00

LAGUNA

8. Ortega St., San
Vicente, San Pedro
FA-281 LA-324
P1,800,000.00

9.Sn.Pedro Alaminos
FA-134 LA-602
P1,500,000.00

BATANGAS

10. St. Peter Subd.
Alangilan
FA-191.2 LA-324
P2,100,000.00

11. Golden Country
Homes, Alangilan
FA-63 LA-299
P1,000,000.00

12. Lamar Village
Bo. Sabang, Lipa
FA-141.5 LA-286
P1,400,000.00

QUEZON PROV.

13. Escudero Sts.
Tiaong LA-514
P3,100,000.00

14. Poblacion, Lucban
FA-217.4 LA-112
P2,300,000.00

15. Rosario Vill., Iyam
FA-141 LA-296
P1,800,000.00

TOWNHOUSE

RIZAL

16. Le Metropole
Family Court,
St. Anthony, Cainta
FA-112 LA-57
P1,700,000.00

MUNTINLUPA

17 Tunasan Townhse.,
Buendia Street
FA-81.93 LA-45
P675,000.00

CONDOMINIUM

MAKATI CITY

18. Prince Tower
Tordesillas, Salcedo
FA:61.18 sq.m.
P3,100,000.00

19. Concorde Condo
2 Comm'l. units
FA-313 & 245
P9,300,000 each UP

CAVITE

20. Ocean Villas,
Puerto Azul, Ternate
8 Units FA-136 sqm. UP
P40,000.00/sqm. each

QUEZON CITY

21. Kamias Twin
FA-60.42 w/prkng.
P1,700,000.00

SAN JUAN

22. Goldland Tower
Greenhills FA-160.5
P7,300,000.00

23. St. Francis Condo
3 Penthouse Units
FA-242.8 sqm.UP
P45,000.00/sqm. UP

LOTS

QUEZON CITY

24. Kingston St. Vista
Real, Classica
Resd'l. LA-370
P2,400,000.00

25.Manchester Cmpd.
Sauyo, Novaliches
Resd'l. LA-2,064
P12,400,000.00

26. Carben Cmpd.
Sauyo, Novaliches
Resd'l. LA-600
P4,200,000.00

27. Villa Orion Subd.
Fairview LA-300.4
P2,500,000.00

LAS PINAS CITY

28. Dona Leoncia
Talon LA-553
P3,100,000.00

29. BF,Thai Subd.
Talon LA-280
P2,000,000.00

MAKATI CITY

30. Eduque corner
Salamanca Sts.
LA-196 sqm.
P12,800,000.00

BULACAN

31. Goldridge Subd.
Tabang, LA-240
P1,200,000.00

32. Matandang Sili
Pili LA-1,997
P1,800,000.00

33. Town & Country
North, Marilao
2 lots @LA-199 UP
P4,500.00/sqm. each

RIZAL

34. Sto. Domingo
Cainta LA-464
P12,000,000.00

35. Cottonwood Heights
8 lots LA-274 sqm. UP
P6,500.00/sqm each

36. San Isidro, Anggono
Resd'l. lot LA-400
P600,000.00

37. Brookside Hills Subd.
Cainta LA-295
P1,100,000.00

LAGUNA

38. Holiday Park Subd.
Sn Antonio, San Pedro
3 lots@174 sqm. each
P3,000.00/sqm. each

39. Las Villas de Manila
Resd'l. LA-365
P3,7000,000.00

40. Laurelville Subd.
San Pablo LA-436
P3,200.00/sqm. each

41. Sn. Roque, Sn. Pablo
Resd'l. LA-881
P1,500.000/sqm. each

CAVITE

42. Manila Southwoods
Carmona LA-465
P10,000.00/sqm.

43. Southwood Villas
Salitran, Dasmarinas
10 lots@ 155sqm. UP
P3,500.00/sqm. each

QUEZON PROVINCE

44.Bo. Domoit Lucena
LA-2,393 sqm.
P2,000,000.00

45. San Isidro, Tiaong
LA-85,492 sqm.
P17,100,000.00

46. Lumingon, Tiaong
LA-2,427
P4,9000,000.00

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT DIVISION

9F SBC Centre
6776 Ayala Avenue
Makati City

Tel. Nos.:
888-7350 to 52
8676-788 loc. 2921-26
891-10-81
Fax Nos. :
867-6796/891-10-86

Email:
PMD@securitybank.com.ph

**ALL PRICES ARE NEGOTIABLE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE*

**ALL OFFERS ARE SUBJECT TO MANGEMENT APPROVAL*

**SALE IS ON AS-IS-WHERE-IS BASIS*

SUBDIVISION LOTS SLASHED-OFF ASSET SALES POOL

CALL: 6331988-90 FOR THE LOWEST PRICE QUOTES

Rainbow Village Caloocan

Foliage Hills, Antipolo

Town & Country Southville, Antipolo, Cavite, Laguna, Bulacan

La Marea San Pedro Laguna

Tierra Solariega Davao City

Palm Ridge Batangas

Manila Southwoods Carmona

Southpoint Subdivision Sta. Rosa, Laguna

La Brea, Quezon City

Cottonwood Heights, Antipolo

Fairview Park Quezon City

Palacio Real Calamba

Island Park, Cavite

Valley Golf Antipolo

Royal Pines, Tagaytay

Maia Alta, Antipolo

Rodeo Countryside Estate, Metro Tagaytay

MORE SUBDIVISION LOTS: Dream World, Cavite; Park Ridge Executive Village; Antipolo, Susana Heights Subdivision; Muntinlupa, Tropical Green Subdivision, Tagaytay; Fontamara Subdivision, Laguna

BANK ASSETS ACQUIRED

HOUSE & LOT

LAS PINAS

1. 5th St., Golden Gate
Subdivision, Talon
2BR/1TB w/ carport
LA-278
P1,800,000.00

2. No. 11 Marigold St.,
Pilar Village
3BR/2TB
LA-252 FA-179
P2,500,000.00

PARANAQUE

3. No. 93 Carmelite St.,
Merville Park
Duplex
LA-380 FA-195
P4,00,000.00

QUEZON CITY

4. No. 92 Dona Hemady,
New Manila
2 storey commercial
LA-254 FA-65
P5,300,000.00

CONDOMINIUM

MAKATI

5. Unit PH 1 Renaissance
Condo, Legaspi Vill.
3BR/3TB w/ parking
FA-271.90
P10,800,000.00

6. Unit 3208, The Peak
Condo, 107 Alfaro St.,
Salcedo Village
Studio type w/ parking
FA-32
P2,200,000.00

PASIG

7. Unit 2204 Parc Royale
Condo., Dona Julia
Vargas Ave., Ortigas
1BR/1TB w/ parking
FA-55.15
P3,400,000.00

QUEZON CITY

8. Unit 502 Jade Place
Condo, Visayas Ave.
1BR/1TB with parking
FA-108.65
P3,300,000.00

9. Unit 901 The Tower at
Emerald Square Condo.,
J.P. Rizal Ave. FA-55
1BR/1TB with parking
P1,800,000.00

LOT

QUEZON CITY

10. L37 B87, Ipil St., Phase
6, Neopolitan Sitio
Seville, Lagro
Subdivision lot
FA-1,400,000.00

11. Neopolitan Geneva
Gardens, Fairview
9 Subdivision Lots
LA-300 UP each
P1,000,000.00 UP each

12. North Fairview
Subdivision, Fairview
8 Subdivision Lots
LA-300 UP each
P450,000.00 UP each

BATANGAS

13. Palmridge Pointe
Subdivision, Talisay
3 Subdivision Lots
LA-471 sqm UP each
P1,300,000.00 UP each

For Inquiries please call:
Bernard Julano
or Chito San Miguel
878-2984
878-2123

→ All properties shall be sold on "as-is-where-is" basis.
→ Interested buyers should submit an offer sheet (intent to buy/proposal)
→ Acceptability of the offer is subject to review by the Bank.
→ Viewing of the properties are on a scheduled basis only

PHILAM

PHILAM SAVINGS BANK

SLASHED-OFF PUBLIC AUCTION

LOW DOWNPAYMENT | EASY TERMS | IN-HOUSE FINANCING

HOUSE & LOT

PARAÑAQUE CITY

1. Merville Park Subd.
2 stry. w/rec. bldg.
6BR/6TB LA-754 FA-486
Min. bid:P7,700,000.00

2. Don Bosco, Betterliving
2 bldg./stry. w/guard hse.
LA-646 FA-533
Min. bid:P4,500,000.00

3. Maywood Vill.,Sn. Dionisio
3BR/4TB LA-303 FA-238
Min. bid:P2,800,000.00

4. St. Lukes Vill., Teoville 3
2 stry. 3BR/2TB w/terrace
Min. bid:P1,600,000.00

LAS PIÑAS

5. Diña Manuela 4, Pamplona
2BR/3TB LA-439 FA-220
Min. bid:P2,800,000.00

6. Philam Life Vill., Pamplona
4BR/4TB LA-525 FA-298
Min. bid:P6,800,000.00

QUEZON CITY

7. E. Abada, Loyola Hgts.
7BR/5TB LA-510 FA-409
Min. bid:P9,500,000.00

8. Sacred Heart Vill., Lagro
3BR/3TB LA-321 FA-190
Min. bid:P2,000,000.00

BATANGAS

9. Don Luis, Sn. Jose
2 Stry. LA-337 FA-480
Min. bid:P2,500,000.00

LAGUNA

10. La Marea, Sn. Pedro
3 Stry. LA-188 FA-129
Min. bid:P1,800,000.00

11. St. Francis Homes, Biñan
2 Resd'l. bdg. LA-180 UP
Min. bid:P500,000/each

CEBU CITY

12. Barrio Lobangon
1BR/1TB LA-274 FA-50
Min. bid:P1,000,000.00

13. Along Provincial Road
Brgy. Pit-os LA-1,397
Min. bid:P1,500,000.00

APARTMENT

VALENZUELA

14. Guillermo, Karuhatan
3BR/TB LA-27- FA-338
Min. bid: P2,295,000.00

PARAÑAQUE CITY

15. Salvador State
4 Units Available
2BR/2TB FA-86 sqm. UP
Min. bid:P1,350,000.00 UP

TOWNHOUSE

MARIKINA

16. Metropole Townhomes
J. Rizal, Industrial Valley
4BR/3TB LA-187
Min. bid: P3,200,000.00

CONDOMINIUM

MAKATI CITY

17. Millennium Plaza
1BR/1TB FA-54.19
Min. bid:P2,200,000.00

18. Neri Condominium
7 Units FA-45.34
T&B/each
Min.bid:P1,200,000 UP

19. Neri Condo - Parking
4 slots available
P200,000.00/each

LOTS

CAGAYAN

20. Bo. Tagga, Tuguegarao
Agri land LA-44,695
Min.bid:P900,000.00

LAGUNA

21. La Marea, San Pedro
Resd'l. lot LA-193
Min.bid:P800,000.00

CALL: 8943035 / 8943052 6331988-90
DATE: April 20, 2002 - Saturday
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
VENUE: Philam Savings Bank Boardroom
2F Philam Building, C. Palanca Street corner dela Rosa
Legaspi Village, Makati City
AUCTIONEER: The Property Forum

All Properties for sale on "as-is-where-is" basis Philam Savings Bank may at any time withdraw any of the properties listed above prior to auction date.

PLANTERS DEVELOPMENT BANK

List of Properties Available For Sale

LOW DOWNPAYMENT | EASY TERMS | IN-HOUSE FINANCING | FAST APPROVAL

HOUSE & LOT

QUEZON CITY

1. Malambing St.,
UP Village
FA-838LA-800.80
P18,100,000.00

2. Spring Drive
Congressional Vill.
LA-483 sq. m.
P12,000,000.00

LAS PINAS

3. Yokohama St.
BF Homes
FA-310.73 LA-306
P7,300,000.00

PARANAQUE

4. Saint Peter St.,
Multinational Village
LA-800 sq. m.
P16,000,000.00

MUNTINLUPA

5. National Road,
Bgy. Bayanan
LA-866 sq. m.
P15,000,000.00

BAGUIO

6. Bgy. Puguis,
La Trinidad
FA-1,647LA-252.7
P1,155,000.00

LAGUNA

7. Ceres Subd.,
Canlubang
FA-1000 LA-291.68
P6,604,000.00

TOWNHOUSE

BAGUIO

8. Bakekang Road,
Eagle Crest Vill.
LA-115-150 sq. m.
P12,200,000.00

CONDOMINIUM

MAKATI CITY

9. World Center Bldg.,
Buendia Ave. Extn.
With 5 parking slots
FA-741.9 sq.m.
P59,720,000.00

MANILA

10. Stanisco Towers
Pedro Gil St., Ermita
FA-614.33 sq. m.
P17,300,000.00

PASIG

11. Chateau Verde
C-5 Road
FA-0 sq. m.
P4,000,000.00

APARTMENT

BULACAN

12. Guiguinto
LA-684 FA-580 sqm
P6,840,000.00

HOTEL

QUEZON

13. Bo. Isabang,
Tayabas
LA-21,972 sqm.
P21,000,000.00

WAREHOUSE

VALENZUELA

14. Bo. Canumay
2 parcels of ind'l lot w/
warehouses & factory
P5,809,000.00

BATANGAS

15. Bgy. Tangob,
Padre Garcia
LA-7,007 FA-1,122
P12,980,000.00

BULACAN

16. Bo.Ibayo, Marilao
LA-56,470 sq. m.
P100,000,000.00

BUILDING

NOVALICHES

17. Mozart St.,
Greenville Subd.
Ind'l LA-9,891 sqm
P17,900,000 UP

MUNTINLUPA

18. Rizal Village
Bgry. Cupang
LA-3,506 sqm.
P28,850,000.00

PASIG

19. Sixto Antonio Ave.
Maybunga
LA-823 FA-549.08
P28,350,000.00

QUEZON CITY

20. San Antonio
SFDM
LA-399 sqm.
P14,830,000.00

21. 19th Avenue,
Zamora St.
LA-489 sq. m.
P12,000,000.00

VALENZUELA

22. ITC Compound
Bagbaguin
LA-8,907 sqm.
P50,000,000.00

RIZAL

23. Quezon Ave. Extn.
Antipolo
Comm'l FA-4,400
P64,770,000.00

BULACAN

24. Brgy. Capihan
San Rafael
LA-87,180 FA-5,766
P31,800,000.00

MINDORO

25. Calapan, Oriental
LA-2,804 FA-825 sqm
P8,080,000.00

BATAAN

26. Bo. Cabcaban,
Mariveles
LA-5,432 sq. m.
P13,579,000.00

LOTS

MAKATI CITY

27. Sn. Antonio Vill.
Pasong Tamo
Comm'l. LA-869
P53,000,000.00

MUNTINLUPA

28. Soldiers Hills Vill.
Putatan
Comm'l LA-3,041
P33,451,000.00

29. Int. East Serv. Rd
Bo. Sucat
Ind'l LA-9,754sqm.
P40,899,000.00

BATANGAS

30. P. Torres St.,
Lipa City
Comm'l LA-269
P9,885,000.00

BULACAN

31. Metrogate Subd.,
Meycauayan
Res'l LA-12,139
P10,500,000.00

LAGUNA

32. Genesis Homes,
San Pedro
Res'l LA-39-158
P15,879,000.00

MORE FORECLOSED PROPERTIES AVAILABLE!!!

PLEASE CALL:

ACQUIRED ASSETS DIVISION 1
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8121-091 to 97 loc.
2416/2200/2607

ACQUIRED ASSETS DIVISION 2
Gody, Allan and Grace
7592264
8121091 loc.
1097/2431/2911/2301

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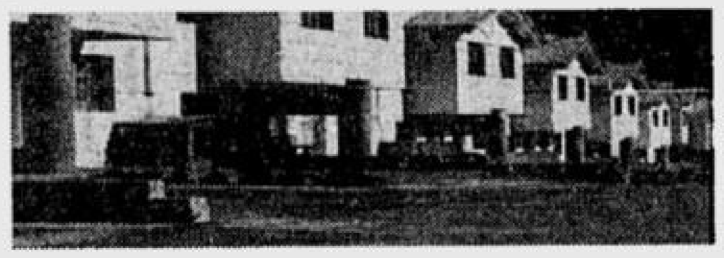

BANCO DE ORO
UNIBANK

PROPERTIES FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

CALOOCAN CITY

1. L29B2 Highview HomesiteCongressional
LA-60 FA-72
P1,500,000.00

LAS PINAS

2. Marcellius Venezia Hms. BF Resort Vill.
LA-204 FA-111.43
P1,500,000.00

3. BF Martinville Subd.
LA-64 FA-100
P2,000,000.00

QUEZON CITY

4. Goldkey Mansion Bo. Sauyo 2 units
LA-107;87
FA-153;174
P2.8M & 2.6M

5. Dona Azucena St., Greenfields III Subd., Novaliches
LA-204 FA-219
P2,000,000.00

PARANAQUE

6. Pres. Garcia St., South Admiral Vill.
LA-442 FA-237.76
P4,500,000

MAKATI CITY

7. Mactan Street, Magallanes Village
LA-329 FA-189
P11,000,000.00

TOWNHOUSE

8. Villas de Guadalupe
2 units FA-128.74
P 3,300,000.00 UP
P1,720,000.00

MANILA

9. Sta. Ana Villas, P. Gil St. 3 units
LA-164.12 UP each
P4,923,600.00 UP each

BAGUIO

10. Woodlane Court T-hse, Loakan Rd
2 units FA-89;64
P2,136,000.00;
P1,536,000.00

RESIDENTIAL CONDOMINIUM

MAKATI CITY

11. Makati Prime Twr. Kalayaan Ave.
FA-37.42
P2,400,000.00

12. Makati Prime Citadel, P. Burgos
3 units FA-40.10 UP
P2,400,000.00each

13. Avignon Tower Dela Costa St.
2 units w/ 2 parking
FA-358.15sqm. UP
P16,197,500.00

14. Avignon Tower Penthouse Unit w/ 6 parking slots
FA-1,311.62
P65,581,000.00

MANDALUYONG

15. Unit 2706-A 27/F Wack-wack Twin Towers, Old Wack-Wack Rd. FA-165
P7,300,000.00

PARANAQUE

16. Washington Tower Asiaworld City
2 Penthouse FA-617.3
P27,770,850.00 each

17. Pacific Coast Plaza, Coastal Road
8 units w/ parking slots
FA-164.62 UP each
P5,267,840.00 UP

PASIG

18. Crisanta Tower, Orambo, Unit 606
FA-111.50
P5,000,000.00

QUEZON CITY

19. G5 Pres. Tower Timog Avenue
FA-96.49
P3,859,600.00

SAN JUAN

20. 25D Goldland Plaza Eisenhower,Greenhills
FA-172 sqm.
P6,918,750.00

CEBU CITY

21. Trinity Plaza, Gonzales Cmpd.
2 units FA-190.15
P8,300,000.00

OFFICE/COMM'L CONDOMINIUM

MAKATI

22. ACT Tower Condo. Buendia Ave.
5 units w/ parking
FA-280.53 UP
P14.027M UP

23. Pacific Star Bldg.
7 units FA-234.70 UP
P14,668,750 UP each

PASIG

24. Unit C, 9/F Strata 200 Ortigas Complex
FA-250 sqm.
P9,000,000.00

RESIDENTIAL LOTS

QUEZON CITY

25. La Brea Subd., Commonwealth
4 vacant lots
LA-237 UP
P1,422,000.00 UP

26. Kalayaan, Diliman
LA-810.80 sqm.
P14,594,400.00

MUNTINLUPA

27. Susana Heights
7 lots LA-500 UP
P3,500,000.00 UP

ANTIPOLO

28. Cottonwoods Heights
3 lots LA-253 UP
P1,265,000.00 UP

29. Foliage Hills
17 lots LA-240 UP
P1,102,500.00 UP

CAVITE CITY

30. Orchard Subd. Salitran, Dasmarinas
LA-482 UP each
P1,673,000.00 UP each

TARLAC

31. Sitio Carague, Sapang Maragul
4 lots LA-370 UP
P111,000.00 UP

32. Moncada Resd'l./Comm'l lot
LA-22,619
P5,800,000.00

PAMPANGA

33. Blue Diamond Subd., Bo. Sn Vicente, Sto. Tomas LA-252
P126,000.00 UP

QUEZON

34. Stella Maris Subd., Mauban LA-101,603
P16,000,000.00

AGRI/RAWLAND LOTS

TARLAC

35. Provincial Rd., Bo. Maluid and Bulo, Victoria
LA-20,102
P1,200,000.00

BENGUET

36. Bo. Longlong, La Trinidad
LA-3,365
P1,000,000.00

LAGUNA

37. Bo. Mabato, Calamba
LA-10,070
P3,900,000.00

38. Bay, Laguna
LA-657,288
P197,186,400.00

PAMPANGA

39. McArthur H-way, San Vicente, Apalit
LA-10,347
P3,200,000.00

CAVITE

40. Bo. Molino, Bacoor
LA-53,583
P32,149,800.00

BATAAN

41. Roman Hi-way. Alas Asin, Mariveles
LA-33,468
P14,000,000.00

RESD'L/COMM'L BUILDING

PARANAQUE

42. Jade Villa Exec. Thse Quirino Ave., Baclaran
2 Units LA-62 FA-139
P4,500,000.00 each

QUEZON CITY

43. RM Ville Tower, Kamuning Road
LA-147.70 FA-548
P8,500,000.00

MANDALUYONG

44. 105 EDSA
LA-990 FA-902.3
P45,000,000.00

CEBU CITY

45. Mandaue City
LA-166 FA-1,088.80
P10,000,000.00

BAGUIO CITY

46. Alpine Hotel & Restaurant Military
LA-871 FA-474
P20,000,000.00

COMMERCIAL LOTS

MAKATI CITY

47. Dela Rosa cor. Rada & Castro Sts., Legaspi Village
LA-1,086
P195,480,000.00

QUEZON CITY

48. Along Quirino H-way Novaliches
LA-2,127 sqm.
P29,776,000.00

ANTIPOLO

49. Marcos H-way, Bo. Munang
LA-29,497
P88,491,000.00

PAMPANGA

50. Gapan-Olongapo Rd.
LA-54,573
P272,865,000.00

INDUSTRIAL LOTS

MAKATI CITY

51. San Antonio Village Office/Warehse bldg
LA-1,220 FA-904.50
P30,000,000.00

MANILA

52. Harbour Center Industrial Park, Tondo
LA-4000 sqm.
P84,000,000.00

PASIG CITY

55. C. Raymundo Ave.
LA-3,905 FA-1,603
P50,000,000.00

PARANAQUE

56. East Service Road, Sucat
LA-9,336 sqm.
P93,360,000.00

VALENZUELA

57. Pearl Is. Industrial Subd., Lawang Bato
LA-7,790 sqm.
P31,160,000.00

GEN. SANTOS

58. National Road Calumpang
LA-12,461 sqm.
P20,000,000.00

LAGUNA

56. Batino, Calamba
LA-151,315 sqm.
P453,945,000.00

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MANILA BANK

PROPERTIES FOR SALE

CONDOMINIUM

QUEZON CITY

1. Brickville I Condominium
N. Domingo Street and Gilmore Avenue
21 Units avlbl. Resd'l./Comm'l.
LA - 2,263.11 sq.m.

LOTS

CALOOCAN CITY

2. Rainbow Village V
Brgy.Bagumbong
40 Residential lots
LA - 216 sq. m. UP each

QUEZON CITY

3. Corner Dona Rodriguez & 6/7th Streets, New Manila
Various Comm'l./Resd'l. lots
LA – 7,449 sq. m.

RIZAL

4. Parkridge Estate Phase V
Valley Golf Subdivision
Brgy. Dela Paz, Antipolo
20 Residential lots
LA – 356 sq. m. UP each

LAGUNA

5. Town and Country Southville Subdivision, Binan
155 Residential lots
LA – 96 sq. m. UP each

6. Evergreen Subdivision
Bagong Kalsada Road
Barangay. Sucol
LA – 50 sq. m. UP each

More Properties Available!!!

CALL:
8645026
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8F, Manila Bank Bldg.
6772 Ayala Avenue
Makati City

PRIME PROPERTIES AT BEST DEAL PRICES

LOW DOWNPAYMENT!

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL

Manila

Unit 104 Standford Tower Condominium
1870 M.H. del Pilar St., Malate, Manila
104.58 sq.m. (floor area)
1 office unit at the ground floor
P3,660,300

Pasay City

Bernie St., Sta. Clara, Pasay City
337 sq.m. 954.74 sq.m. (floor area)
3-storey residential structure with penthouse, roofdeck & a 3-storey factory/warehouse at the back
P5.750M

Makati City

Sgt. F. Yabut cor. Dapitan Sts., Guadalupe Nuevo, Makati City
313 sq.m. 1,024.11 sq.m. (floor area)
unfinished 3-storey residential/commercial bldg. with mezzanine
P12.5M

Mandaluyong

Units D, E, F Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong 509 sq.m.
279.70 sq.m. (floor area) 3-door 2-storey concrete comm'l. structure; single-storey & lofty storey factory
P20.560M

San Juan

Boni Serrano Ave., cor. 1st & 2nd West Crame Sts., San Juan 1,573 sq.m. 1,566 sq.m. (floor area)
2 lots with 2 adjoining concrete lofty factory/warehouse structure
P37M

Quezon City

Calle Industria, Bagumbayan, Quezon City
6,000 sq.m. vacant lot
P72M

CASH OR INSTALLMENT PAYMENTS ACCEPTED

RESIDENTIAL

Alabang

Phar-lap St., Alabang 400 Village, Cupang, Muntinlupa City 496 sq.m. vacant lot
P4.464M

San Juan

Crownpointe Condominium, Jose Abad Santos Sr., Little Baguio, San Juan 195.75 sq.m. (floor area)
4 bedroom residential condominium unit incl. of 2 parking slots
P6,223,545

Quezon City

H. Kennedy Road, Don Antonio Royale Estate, Capitol District, Quezon City
434 sq.m. 311 sq m. (floor area)
modern split type w/ basement residential structure
P8.170M

Chateau Victoria, Victoria St., New Manila, Quezon City 136.5 sq.m.
264 sq.m. (floor area)
modern 3-storey residential townhouse
P10M

Parañaque

Unit B-107 Marina Bay Homes 3
E. Aguinaldo Blvd., Tambo, Parañaque City
278 sq.m. (floor area) res'l. townhouse-type condo unit w/ 4 bedrooms
P8.34M

Manila

Lamayan St., Sta. Ana, Manila
1,044.8 sq.m. 273 sq.m. (floor area)
4-door modern 2-storey apartment
P14.5M

Pasig City

Gen. Atienza St., San Antonio Village, Pasig City 691 sq.m. 515.25 sq.m. (floor area)
2 storey residential structure
P20M

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Our company would like to bring its expertise in Non-Performing Assets sales and best use development to a higher level by setting up a subsidiary to act as a friendly Special Purpose Asset Vehicle. The SPAV FINANCIAL ADVISOR will prepare the financial strategy which shall include negotiations with private placement investors, public listed companies and foreign fund managers.

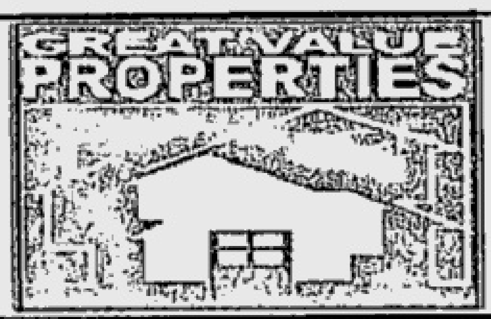
Kindly submit your letter of intent to act as SPAV FINANCIAL ADVISOR to THE PROPERTY FORUM, Upper Penthouse, Classica Condominium, 112 H.V. dela Costa Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City or by email to alleje@propertyforum.net.

TOWNHOMES & CONDOS SLASHED-OFF ASSET SALES POOL

CALL: 6331988-90 FOR THE LOWEST PRICE QUOTES

- Sunnyside Heights Townhomes, Quezon City
- Residencia Braganza Condo Quezon City
- Las Villas del Cielo Townhomes, Quezon City
- West Mansion Condo, Quezon City
- T-Tower Condo, Makati
- Palm Ridge Batangas
- Tempus Place Condo, Quezon City
- Luxor Villas, San Juan
- Praise Condo Makati
- Trinity Plaza Condo, Cebu City
- Belmont Southpark Townhomes Parañaque
- Amville Court Townhomes
- Woodlane Court Townhome
- Isabella Place Townhomes
- Pacific Star Bldg. Makati City
- Pacific Coast Plaza, Costal Rd.
- Arayat Mansion Quezon City

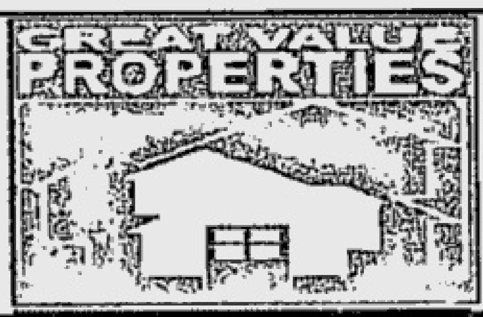
MORE TOWNHOMES & CONDOMINIUMS: Essensa East Forbes, Bonifacio, Global City; 1st e-Bank Building, Makati; ACT Tower, Makati; Plaza Lacson, Manila; EGI-Rufino Plaza, Pasay; Kikusui Star 1 Building, Makati; Kingswood Condo, Makati



10% D/P
10% INT

GREAT VALUE PROPERTIES

10 Years to pay or more



INVESTMENT

KNOCK-OUT PRICES

Commercial Lot LA - 4,062 sq.m. Shaw Blvd. & San Clement St., Brgy. Kapitolyo, Pasig City	150,000,000.00
Two-storey Resdl. Bldg. LA-2,730 sq.m.;FA-959 sq.m. 7 BR; 8 T&B; library;balcony; 2 kitchens;2 living room; pool No. 27 Banaba St., Forbes Park-South, Makati City	135,000,000.00
Commercial Lot LA - 2,539 sq.m. Old Nat'l Hway, Landayan, San Pedro, Laguna	31,100,000.00
Single-Storey Warehouse LA - 629 sq.m.;FA - 174 sq.m. Alabang-Zapote Road, Brgy. Almanza, Las Piñas City	23,000,000.00
Two Storey Resdl. Bldg., LA - 448 sq.m.;FA - 360 sq.m. 3 BR; maid's qrtr. w/ T&B; stockroom; 3 T&B; laundry area; garage; terrace; pool No. 25 Piña St., Valle Verde I, Pasig City	16,700,000.00
Three-Storey Resd'l. LA- 1,547 sq.m.;FA- 775 sq.m. 6 BR; 6 T&B Tasaday St., La Vista Subd., Marikina City	15,000,000.00
Three-Storey Resdl LA - 826 sq.m. 8 BR; 6 T&B;family hall;terrace E. Cojuangco St., BF Resort Pamplona, Las Piñas	12,400,000.00
Two-Storey Res. Bldg. LA - 826 sq.m. No. 0116 Vergel De Dios St., Poblacion, Baliuag, Bulacan	12,400,000.00
Three-storey Comml. Bldg LA - 387 sqm; FA-680 sqm. 58 España St. Brgy. Parian, Cebu	12,100,000.00
Resort Type Hotel Bldg. - FA - 448 sq.m. One-sty Res.Bldg.,FA 560sqm Cottage Bldg. - FA - 90 sq.m. LA - 4,976 sq.m. 6 BR; 4 T&B; maid's qrtr. Nam Kuang Rd, Gerona,Tarlac	10,880,000.00
Resd'l. Condo. Unit - 187 sq.m. 2 Parking Slots - 27.115 sq.m. 4 BR; 3 T&B; laundry area Unit 701, Skyland Plaza, Sen. Puyat Ave., Makati	9,350,000.00 1,000,000.00
Four adjacent vacant lots LA - 10,218 sq.m. Palmera Homes, Brgy. Bagumbong, Camarin, Kal. City	10,333,000.00

LOW INTEREST

LOW DOWNPAYMENT

FINANCING AVAILABLE

NORTH PROPERTIES
CALL: DULCE, LIZA & EMER
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843-2038 loc 8529, 8464 & 8465

SOUTH PROPERTIES
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843-2038 loc 8466, 8464, 8467

BULACAN PROPERTIES
CALL: NIDA CRUZ
(044) 791-0439
(044) 662-2219

NORTH

MANDALUYONG CITY

Resdl/Office Condo Unit Floor Area - 90.92 sq.m. Unit 901-B State Finance Bldg Mandaluyong City	3,150,000.00

PASIG CITY

Lot w/ Warehouse LA - 600 sq.m. Lots 4 & 5, Blk. 13 Ikong St., Bagong Ilog, Pasig City	6,000,000.00

SAN JUAN

Res'l. Condo. Unit Unit Area - 72.65 sq.m. Unit 15-D-1 Platinum 2000, Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila	2,910,000.00

VALENZUELA CITY

4-Storey Bldg. with Rooftop LA - 251 sq. m.; FA - 763 sq.m. 13 Humilidad St., Arty Homes, Marulas, Valenzuela	6,000,000.00
Three-Storey Res. w/ penthouse LA - 150 sq.m.; FA - 351 sq.m. 1 BR; 1 T&B; carport No. 242 G. Angeles St., Paso de Blas, Valenzuela City	2,250,000.00

QUEZON CITY

Four-Storey Condo. Unit Unit Area - 118 sq.m. 2 BR; 4 T&B; master's BR Unit A, Bellevue Plaza, Quezon Blvd. Ext., Q.C.	3,600,000.00
Res. Condo LA - 161 sq.m. Unit 4A, Boungainvillea Mansions #91 P. Tuazon Blvd., Cubao, QC	3,600,000.00

BULACAN

Four (4) Storey Res'l. LA - 383 sq.m.; FA - 590 sq.m. Lias Rd. cor. M. Santos St., Bry. Lias, Marilao, Bulacan	6,400,000.00
Two-Storey Comm'l. - 228 sqm Res. Bldg., - 174 sq.m. LA - 1,258.11 sqm. Lucero St., Mabolo, Malolos, Bul	4,700,000.00
Ten Vacant Lots TLA - 1,483 sq.m. Maunlad Ave. cor. Matipuno St., Maunlad Homes, Bo. Mojon, Malolos, Bulacan	3,560,000.00

TARLAC

Two (2) Vacant Lots Total Land Area - 11,954 sq.m. Mc Arthur Highway, Moncada, Tarlac	3,981,000.00
Three one-storey warehouse LA - 2,942 sq.m. Poblacion, Moncada, Tarlac	4,630,000.00

BAGUIO

Three-Storey Res'l. LA - 354 sq.m.; FA - 292 sq.m. 7 BR; 4 T&B No. 3 Azucena cor. Main Ave., Monterazzas Subd., Brgy. Tuding, Itogon, Benguet	3,900,000.00

SOUTH

MAKATI CITY

Condominium Unit Unit Area - 34.04 sq.m. Unit 2310 Millenium Plaza Hotel, Makati Avenue, Makati City	2,100,000.00

PASAY CITY

Condominium Unit Unit Area - 72 sq.m. 1 BR & T & B Unit 3-1 Sunvar Condo. Apart. Villaruel cor. Luna St. Pasay	2,268,000.00

LAS PIÑAS CITY

Vacant Lot LA - 240 sq.m. Along CRM Ave., St. Joseph Subd., Almanza, Las Piñas City	1,500,000.00

PARAÑAQUE CITY

Vacant Lot LA - 1,751 sq.m. Cairo St., Multinational Village Parañaque City	7,880,000.00
Residential Town House LA - 165 sq.m.; FA - 238 sq.m. 3 BR; 2T&B; terrace; cov. garage L3, B4 Tanguile St., Molave Park Subd., Parañaque City	3,100,000.00
Condominium Unit UA - 105 sq.m. 2 BR, 3 T&B, maid's qrtr. Unit 403, 4th Flr., Bayview Int'l Tower, Roxas Blvd.,Pque, City	4,160,000.00

CAVITE

Vacant lot LA - 577 sq.m. B3/L25, Bonifacio St., Ayala Southvale Village, Molino, Bacoor, Cavite	8,100,000.00

TAGAYTAY

Vacant Res'l. Lot Land Area - 1,200 sq.m. Lot 7257-G Ligaya Drive, Bo. Sungay, Tagaytay City	4,620,000.00

LAGUNA

Four Vacant Lots LA - 300 sq.m. Lots 19A& B & Lots 17A & B Wisconsin St., Town & Country Southville, Biñan, Laguna	1,100,000.00

BATANGAS CITY

Two vacant lots LA - 1,506 sq.m. Blk. 12, Lots 14 & 16 Countryside Estate, Brgy. Bulacnin, Lipa City	4,820,000.00

RIZAL

Two Vacant Lots Total Land Area - 619 sq.m. Int. Mla East Rd. San Juan, Taytay, Rizal	4,457,000.00
Single-Storey Res. Bldg. LA - 2,087 sq.m. J. Ynares Ext., San Carlos Heights Subd., Bo. Tayuman, Binangonan, Rizal	3,150,000.00

VISMIN

BACOLOD CITY

Single-storey Res'l. LA - 536 sq.m.; FA - 273 sq.m. Pines St., Rosario Heights Subd. Bacolod City	2,752,000.00

DAVAO CITY

Two-Storey Res. Bldg. LA - 216 sq.m.; FA - 214 sq.m. 6 BR; 3 T&B 150 Woodpecker St., Ph. II, Ecoland Subd., Davao City	2,250,000.00

CEBU CITY

2-Storey Bldg. LA - 271 sq.m.; FA - 196 sq.m. Tabunoc, Talisay, Cebu	2,250,000.00
Three Vacant Lots LA - 7,008 sq.m. Cotcot, Liloan, Cebu	4,210,000.00
Single-Storey Res'l. LA - 259 sq.m.; FA - 168 sq.m. 3 BR; 2 T&B; cov. garage Basak, Lapu-Lapu City	1,800,000.00

KALOOKAN

Vacant lot LA - 235 sq.m. B10/L27 Jerusalem St., Vista Verde, Kalookan City	600,000.00

MAKATI CITY

Office Condo. Unit UA - 17.32 sq.m. Unit G-20, South Star Plaza, Pres. Sergio Osmeña Hi-way, Brgy. Bangkal, Makati City	520,000.00
Office Condo. Unit UA - 18.67 sq.m. Unit G-18, South Star Plaza, Pres. Sergio Osmeña Hi-way, Brgy. Bangkal, Makati City	561,000.00

BATANGAS

Two vacant lots		
Prop. I	175 sq.m.	578,000.00
Prop. II	175 sq.m.	578,000.00
Las Villas De Aguila Subd., Poblacion, Lemery, Batangas		

LAGUNA

3-door single-storey apart. LA - 148 sq.m.; FA - 87 sq.m. 2 BR; 1 T&B Proserfina Dr, Olympia Park Subd., Ph. IV., Bo. Labas, Sta. Rosa, Laguna	738,000.00

BULACAN

Vacant lot LA - 240 sq.m. Gladiola St., Gulguinto, Bulacan	720,000.00
Vacant lot LA - 239 sq.m. L6, B17 Calachuchi St., Green Plain Subd., Calumpit, Bulacan	720,000.00

CAVITE

Vacant lot LA - 832 sq.m. Rd. Lot 3, Cityview Subd., Dasmariñas, Cavite	660,000.00

QUEZON PROVINCE

Vacant lot LA - 353 sq.m. Along National Rd. Tagbakin, Atimonan, Quezon	500,000.00
Single-storey res. bldg. LA - 180 sq.m.; FA - 223 sq.m. 4 BR; 3 T&B; maid's qrtr. Ipil-Ipil St., South Subd., Pahinga, Candelaria, Quezon	700,000.00

RIZAL

Vacant lot LA - 176 sq.m. Road Lot 2, Monte Vista Subd., Dolores, Taytay, Rizal	660,000.00
Vacant lot LA - 240 sq.m. Delos Santos Ave., Monterey Hills Subd., Nangka, San Mateo, Rizal	500,000.00

TARLAC

Bungalow house LA - 341 sq.m.; FA - 110 sq.m. 4 BR; T&B Burgos St., Moncada, Tarlac	600,000.00

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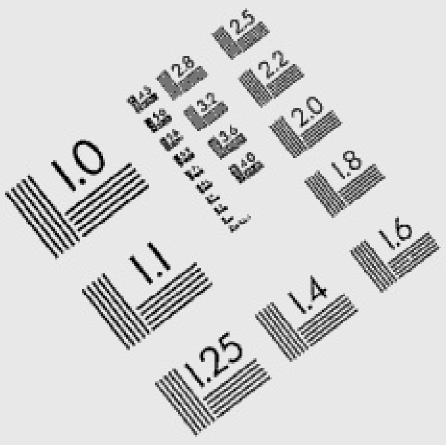
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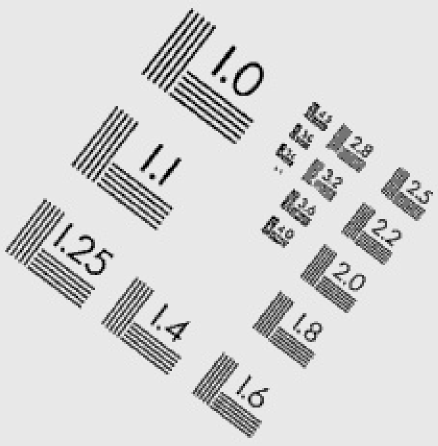
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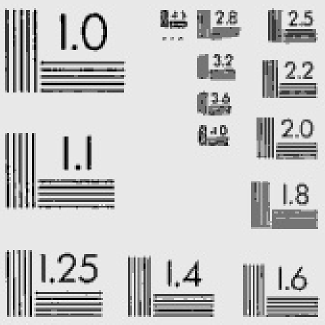
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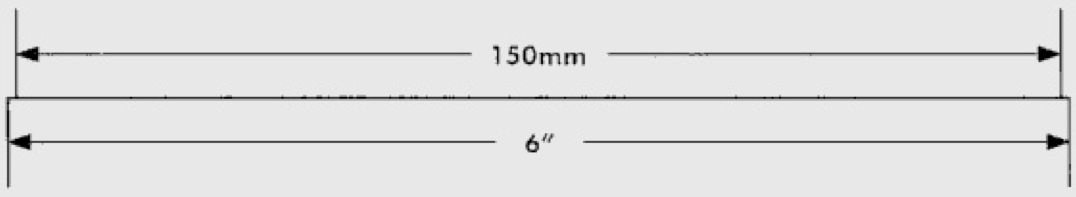

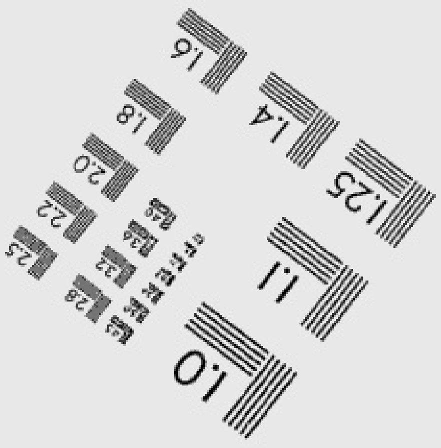
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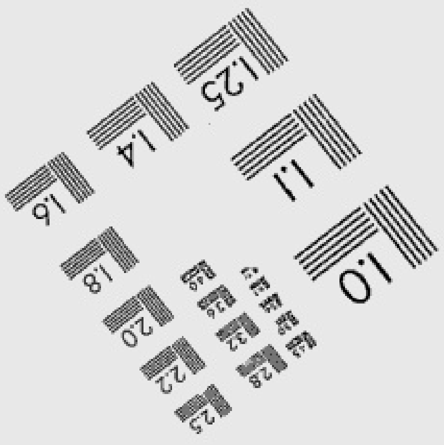
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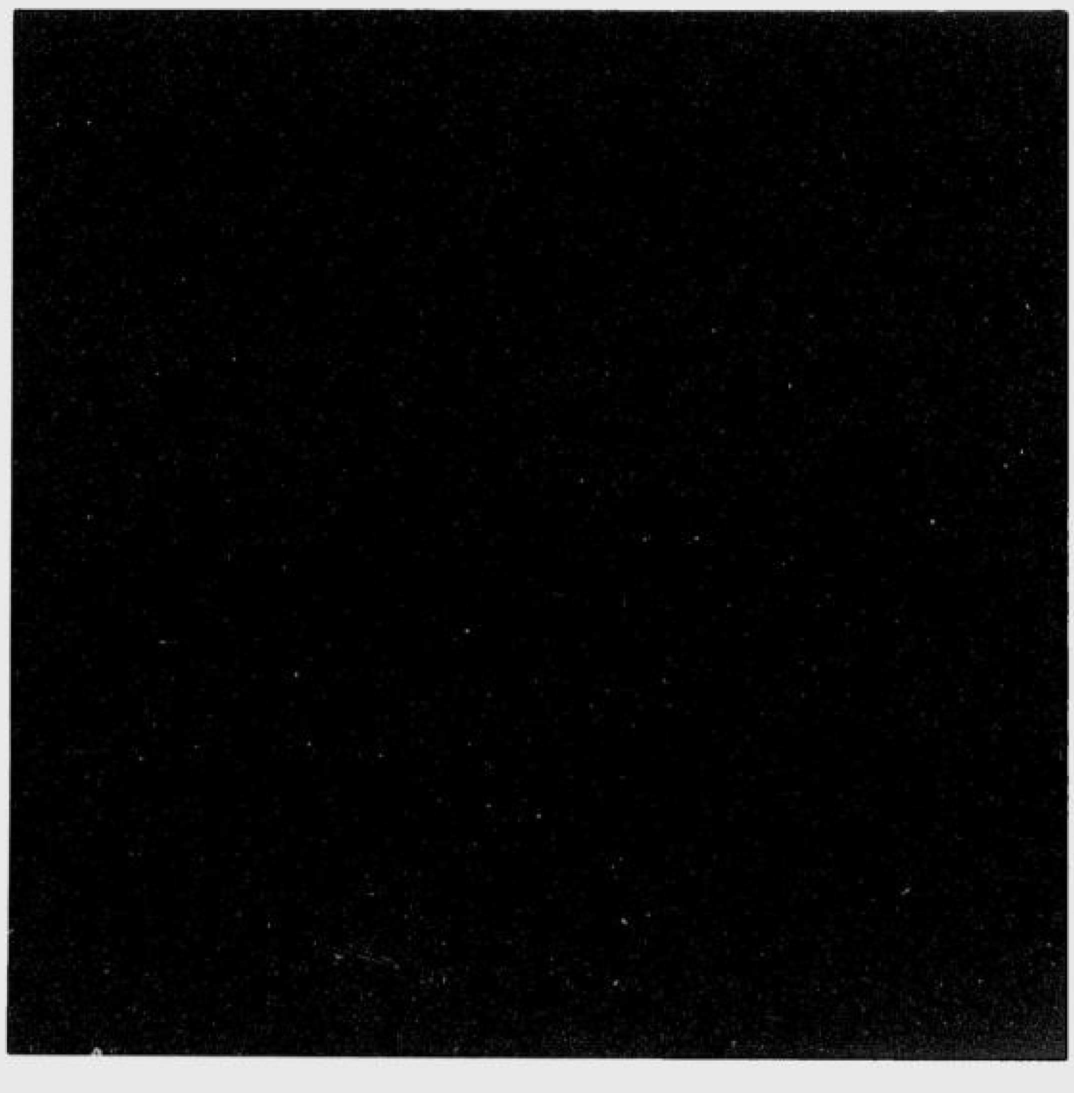

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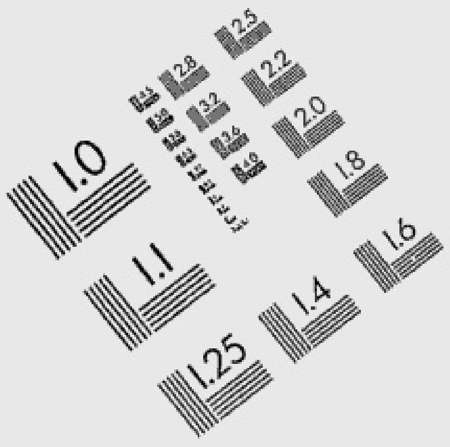
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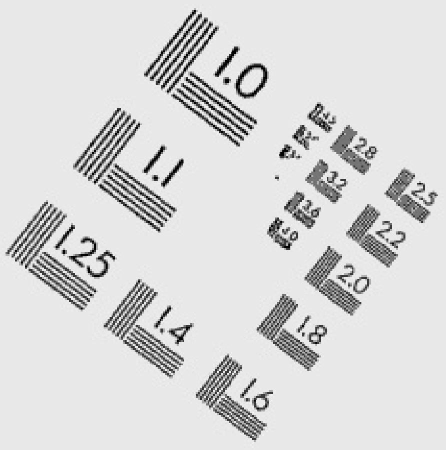
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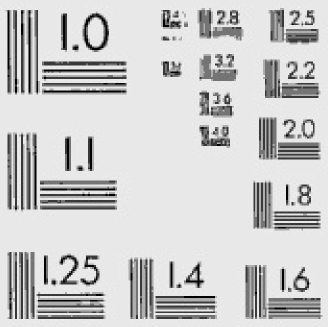
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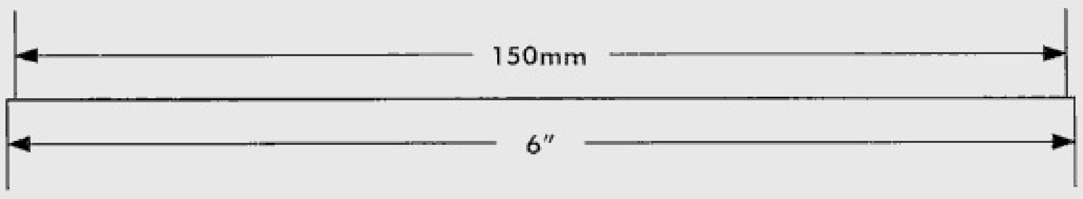

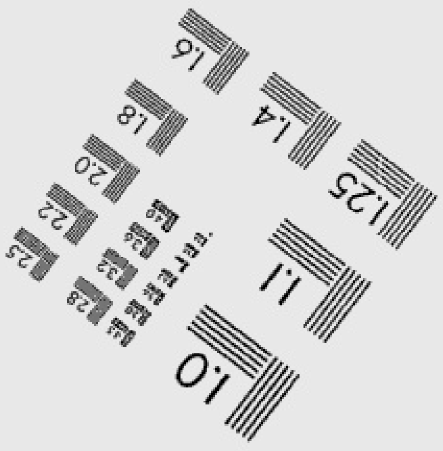
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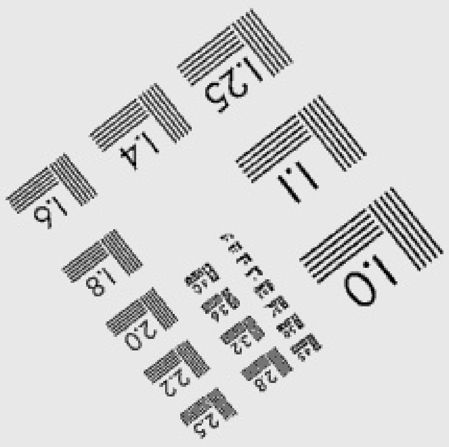
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Meralco blames law for 'excessive' rates

STORY ON PAGE A2

PHILIPPINE DAILY
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e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Wednesday, May 1, 2002 ★ 78 pages / 7 sections / vol.17 / no. 142 P15
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Gov't telecom office in GenSan bombed

By the PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—A powerful homemade bomb triggered by a timing device exploded inside a government telecommunication office here at 12:30 a.m. yesterday, police said.

No one was hurt in the bomb blast—the 12th in the city since Jan. 1—but the

GOV'T/A4

No R&R for GIs in Ceboom

By C. E. Fernandez
PDI Visayas Bureau

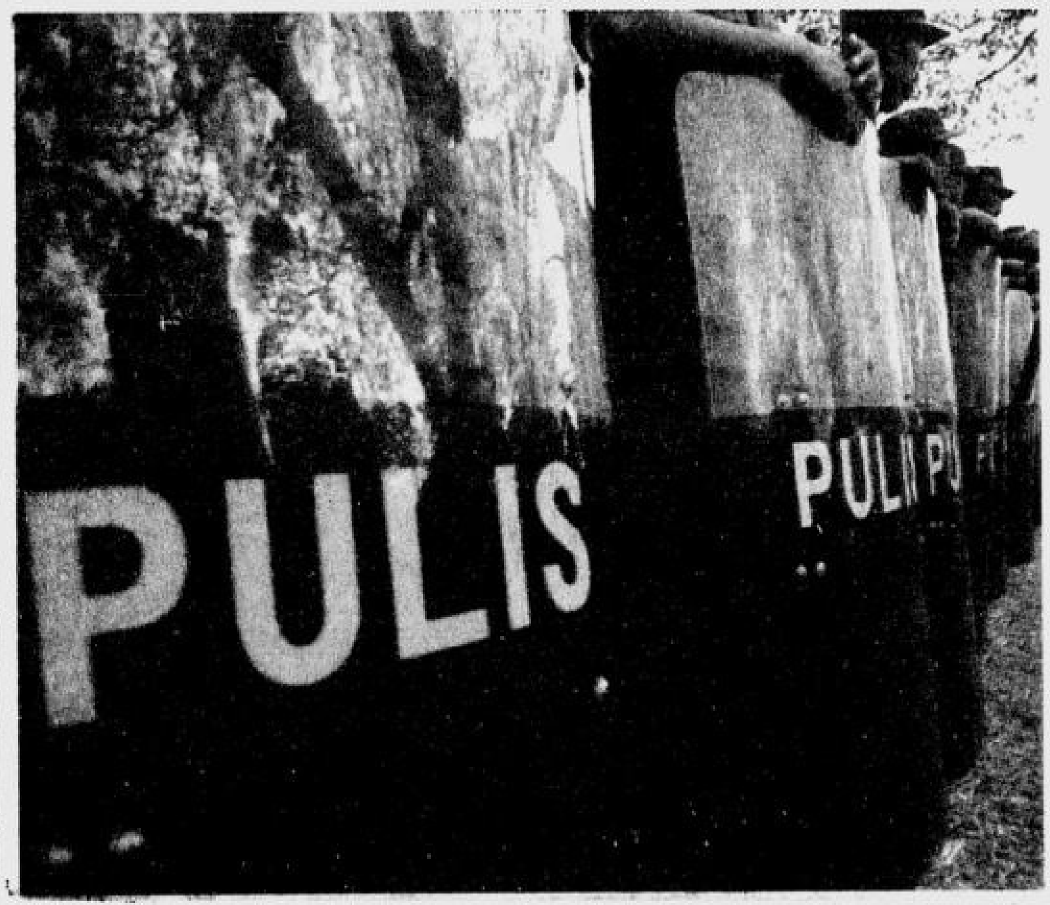
STAY HOME LANG SILA

MACTAN ISLAND, Cebu—While their comrades assigned in Central Luzon have been enjoying the sights and sounds of Angeles City, Pampanga, the 250

NO R&R/A4

Palace: Unrest won't last

Calls for GMA ouster all 'political hype,' says spokesman



WHAT, me worry? On the eve of May Day, with four Army battalions on alert to support the deployment of thousands of policemen, 3,000 around Malacañang (above), President Macapagal is happy and ready for the best and worst of times. EDWIN BACASMAS

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Juliet L. Javellana
in Manila
Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

MALACAÑANG expects the calls for the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo to die down after today.

Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable Jr. said such calls were part of the "political hype" made by anti-administration groups to drum up interest for their Labor Day rallies.

At the House of Representatives, certain lawmakers rallied behind the President and dismissed the opposition forces as "strange bedfellows" with no popular support.

The congressmen's advice to Ms Macapagal: Stay focused, keep cool, be true to yourself and don't court your enemies. However, Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez said the administration should also monitor opposition groups to preempt "overt acts'" against the government.

But in Calamba City, the militant group Sanlakas clarified that it was not part of the "broad coalition" calling for the President's ouster and the revocation of Joseph Estrada's "leave of absence."

Sanlakas president Wilson Fortaleza said his group did not form alliances with other groups based on "shallow grounds."

"Having a formal alliance with the Edsa 3 forces is impossible if the agenda is for the return of (Estrada)," he told the INQUIRER during a forum for workers organized by the Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino.

Fortaleza was among the speakers at the assembly dubbed "Pagbabago, Ngayon Na," which was held Monday at the Club Filipino in San Juan under the auspices of the Philippine Consultative Assembly (PCA).

The formation of a parliamentary government with a federal character is the basis for the unity of the groups represented at the assembly, according to PCA secretary general Linda Montayre.

"All of us who are here are members of the broad coalition," Montayre said Monday.

She also said the coalition had allied with Estrada supporters as well as "all those who want change."

But at a briefing, Afable de-

PALACE/A20

Gov't, opposition swap charges of provocation

By Dona Pazzibugan and Rocky Nazareno

THE FIRST pictures showing the ousted President, Joseph Estrada, detained in a stark jail cell fueled the anger that sparked the country's most bloody rioting in recent history.

His supporters are staging commemorative rallies today to observe the first anniversary of what they call Edsa Tres. Its organizing committee has promised a peaceful and orderly assembly at Mendiola bridge where the pro-Estrada groups have been allowed to hold their program and the laying of a wreath in memory of those killed in the "People's March" to Malacañang.

Despite avowals of peace and order, Opposition Sen. Edgardo J. Angara last night fired the opening salvo. He disclosed that he and Senator Panfilo Lacson are being set up by Malacañang to take the fall for a fake intelligence report that shows them as plotters of a move to disrupt today's observance of Edsa 3 and Labor Day to create trouble.

Denials from the PNP came swiftly. "We did not receive any report of that sort nor make any report of that sort. There is no such report," Senior Supt. Leonardo Espina, PNP spokesperson, said when informed of Angara's allegation.

In emergency press conference at the Senate, Angara said a "reliable and unimpeachable" source informed him that the Philippine National Police chief Leandro Mendoza already has an intelligence report that tags him and Lacson as those behind a plot "to raise a crew by midnight" to disrupt the rallies.

Based on the intelligence report, the PNP could order his

GOV'T/A19

Loren blows top over ransom; military backs off

By Martin P. Marfil and Cynthia D. Balana

SEN. LOREN Legarda couldn't take it anymore.

Yesterday, she blew her top and berated the chief of the Armed Forces' public information office over reports that the military had come out with a report saying that a P2-million ransom was paid to the kidnappers of broadcast journalist Arlyn de la Cruz.

The incident was aired over a radio station yesterday morning.

In the course of the program, Legarda challenged the AFP to be "man enough" and reveal who made the derogatory report that had said she and her husband, former Batangas Gov. Antonio Leviste, facilitated the payment of ransom for De la Cruz.

According to the report on which some newspaper articles were based, the negotiation was reportedly finalized the night before between the group of Legarda, her husband and De la Cruz's godmother, Cherry Covarubbias, in the Legarda ancestral home in Malabon.

In the afternoon, Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesperson, Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta, issued a statement which he read in a press briefing saying it does not have any report confirming that ransom was paid.

A still irked Legarda furnished Senate reporters with the official statement of the AFP-Public Information Office.

The report said Legarda was a reserve officer of the AFP with the rank of lieutenant colonel and "would not certainly resort to any action that would destroy her reputa-

LOREN/A20

EULEGIO LERUM: Most popular Presidents among the workers were Ferdinand Marcos and Manuel Quezon. JOAN BONDOC

At 94, labor leader is still at it, even walking up to the 4th floor

By Blanche S. Rivera

EULOGIO Lerum was among the thousands of workers who pushed for a P2 increase in the P4 minimum wage during the time of former President Diosdado Macapagal.

Today, at 94 and with another Macapagal in Malacañang, Lerum is the country's oldest living labor leader and is still at it, with as much fervor as he had back then.

Of the 13 presidents that Lerum has lived through, he considers Ferdinand Marcos and Manuel Quezon as the most popular among the workers.

Lerum said the late Senator Benigno Aquino Jr. was the best labor manager he had ever encountered because Aquino always took the initiative of asking his workers at Hacienda Luisita what they wanted.

It takes him great effort to walk now, and his hearing and eyesight have deteriorated considerably, but Lerum, who has been president of the National Labor Union (NLU) since

AT/A20

Workers march today; gov't readies 'Global Pinoy'

ENCOURAGED by reports saying Filipinos are achievers, the Macapagal administration plans to embark on a major effort to increase productivity and enhance the global competitiveness of Filipino workers.

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) announced ahead of Labor Day it would shortly launch "Pinoy: Pang-Global Ka!" an awareness-raising program that stresses Filipino workers' strengths and positive contributions to Philippine and global progress.

The program is to be implemented from June 2002 to June 2004. It complements the DOLE's first extensive productivity pursuit, ISTIV, which stands for Industrious, Systematic, Time-conscious, Innovative and strong Value for work—the five ideal attributes of a productive worker.

"Pinoy: Pang-Global Ka!" aims to direct Filipino workers' positive work values into more participative, quality- and productivity-oriented work attitude.

But the launching of the program will do little to silence the traditionally raucous Labor Day celebrations and the airing of the expected anti-administration sentiments.

In Cebu City, a metro-wide transport strike and a rally will greet President Macapagal-Arroyo today when she arrives in the city to speak before the Associated Labor Union-Trade Union of Congress of the Philippines (TUCP-ALU).

WORKERS/A20

KALAMPAGIN
NG PROTESTA
SI GLORIA!
IBAGSAK
IPAGLABAN

NEVER too early to learn the rudiments of protest, the little girl finds herself in the thick of her elders' preparation for the rallies scheduled today. JOAN BONDOC

SOBRA NAMAN!

Second FRONT PAGE

Meralco blames law for 'excessive' rates

Power firm says it wants only 30-cents raise per kwh

By Abigail L. Ho

AFTER an energy department study labeled its proposed unbundled rates "excessive and unjustifiable," the Manila Electric Co. now seeks to blame the law.

In a telephone interview, Meralco corporate communications manager Elpi Cuna said that the power utility only wanted the P0.30 per kilowatt hour increase that it asked for last year but that the Electric Power Industry Reform Act required it to unbundle its rates.

The upshot is that Meralco would be charging customers P1.12 more per kWh with the unbundled rates.

Cuna claimed that the computations were made according to the "parameters" given by the Energy Regulatory Commission based on 2000 costs.

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, which has been leading the public protests against Meralco's latest bid to increase electricity rates, accused Meralco of "pinning the blame on the law."

Bayan spokesperson Renato Reyes said the law should either be junked or reviewed if it allowed power distributors to use it as an excuse to increase rates and pass the burden on to consumers.

'Unbundled'

The Electric Power Industry Reform Act has required power utilities like the Meralco to "unbundle" their rates so consumers would know exactly what they are paying for.

Unbundling refers to the itemization of the total monthly power charges into generation, transmission, distribution, supply and other components.

Meralco's petition for the unbundled rates has already been through more than five hearings at the ERC with a deadline for a final decision set for June 26.

The ERC earlier suspended the hearings. Bayan then submitted a petition to dismiss the case, saying Meralco's proposed rates were unreasonable and would just reclassify the controversial purchased power adjustment (PPA) and incorporate it in other charges.

The power industry watchdog has yet to resume the hearings. Reyes said a decision whether or not to dismiss the case could be handed down in the next few weeks.

Protest threat

Should the ERC decide against the interest of consumers, however, Bayan has threatened to unleash widespread protest actions.

"We will stage more protest actions which may even lead to civil disobedience," Reyes said.

Bayan initiated on Monday a "protest blackout" that covered some parts of Metro Manila. The biggest response came from the Sampaloc area where more than 1,000 residents lined the pitch-dark stretch of M. de la Fuente Street from the Trabajo market to the railroad tracks.

Around 1,100 households also joined the protest in Vitas, Tondo, Reyes said. Some Quezon City and Intramuros residents also joined in.

"The protest blackouts we staged are just a dry run, the first salvo in a wider protest (campaign) leading up to the June 26 decision on Meralco's proposal," Reyes said.

With the positive initial response, Reyes expressed confidence that it would not be difficult to get people to support a separate protest action, this time against Meralco's PPA.

Reyes has alleged that Meralco could very well charge even its income tax payments to consumers through the PPA without consumers even noticing.

The PPA pertains to the cost of the power that Meralco buys from power generators like the National Power Corp. and independent power producers which is passed on directly to consumers.

ERC-approved

But Cuna contended that everything contained in a standard Meralco bill, including the PPA, follows a formula that had been examined and approved by the ERC.

"The whole PPA goes to our power generators, including the Napocor. None of this goes to Meralco," he said.

Reyes said consumers could express their objection to the PPA by withholding PPA payments.

"We're seriously considering nonpayment of the PPA," he said.

He said consumers could opt to pay for only the basic charges that appear on their electric bill without risking having their electricity cut off, as Meralco has allegedly threatened to do during a congressional hearing.

Cuna said Meralco needed the PPA payments for it to be able to pay its power suppliers.

"They could opt not to pay and reason that they are under protest, but we would cut them off," he said. "If they don't pay us, we won't be able to pay the power generators. Then we won't have electricity to supply to our customers."

Reyes said this was for Meralco and not for the consumers to worry about.

MCDO ADS

2 senators assail 'under-the-table' fries

By Cynthia D. Balana

TWO senators known for promoting the value of hard work and discipline yesterday chided McDonald's, a popular burger chain, for its latest television commercial for "espousing wrong values" among the youth.

Senate President Pro Tempore Manny Villar and Sen. Juan Flavier said the latest McDonald's commercial promotes bribery and dishonesty among children and adults.

They wanted the burger chain to withdraw the commercial as soon as possible in order to protect the right values of the society.

The two were referring to the advertisement wherein a precocious young girl would reply favorably to her "Dada" (father) in exchange for pieces of french fries which were being handed to her under the table.

"It's as if we are showing our children that bribery is okay," Villar said, adding that he was disappointed with the advertisement.

Villar, known for his "Sipag at Tiyaga" commercial, said that while the latest McDonald's commercial may be "cute" to some, the message it sends was not.

Villar said that such a known worldwide food conglomerate as McDonald's should be more discerning and responsible with the type of message it sends out in its ads.

He also pointed out that while the country tries to grapple with the mammoth problem of graft and corruption which pulls the country down, such "irresponsibly crafted commercials" may ingrain the wrong values on Filipinos and set back efforts to eliminate graft and corruption.

Flavier said this was the first McDonald's advertisement that he did not like.

"It's really wrong. At first, it looks amusing but in the end, *pangit ang dating*," Flavier said.

"The effect on the incremental values of children is that bribery is okay, which is the problem of our society. It's really bribery, plain and simple."

Flavier said the idea of giving something "under the table" was in itself wrong.

He urged McDonald's to be more responsible and sensitive to the values of Filipinos, considering that it is a multinational firm.

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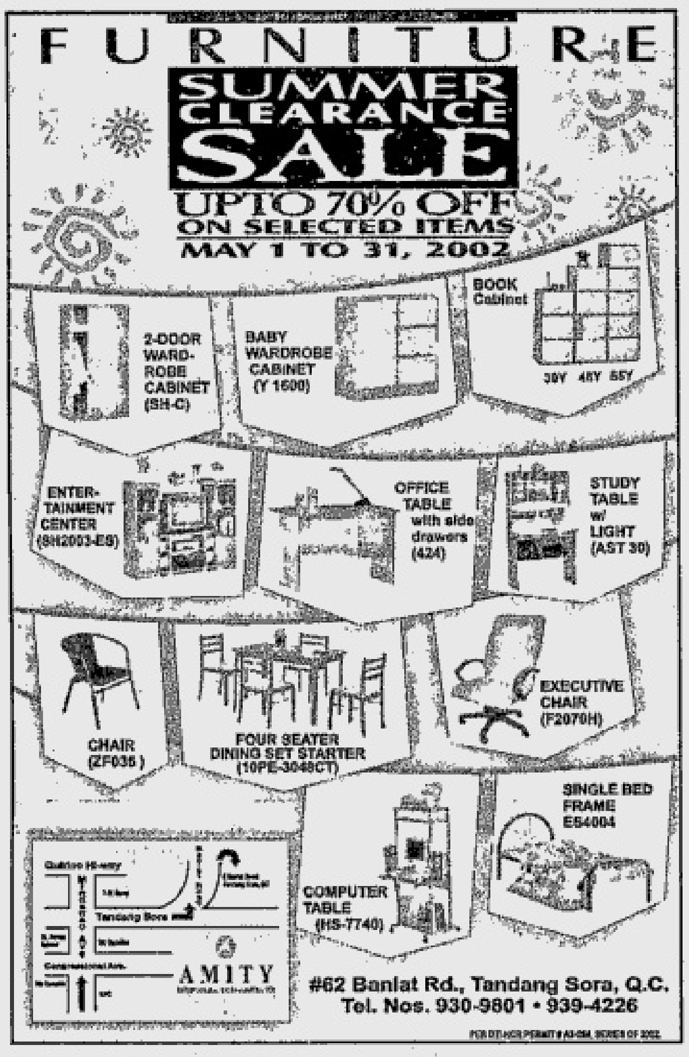
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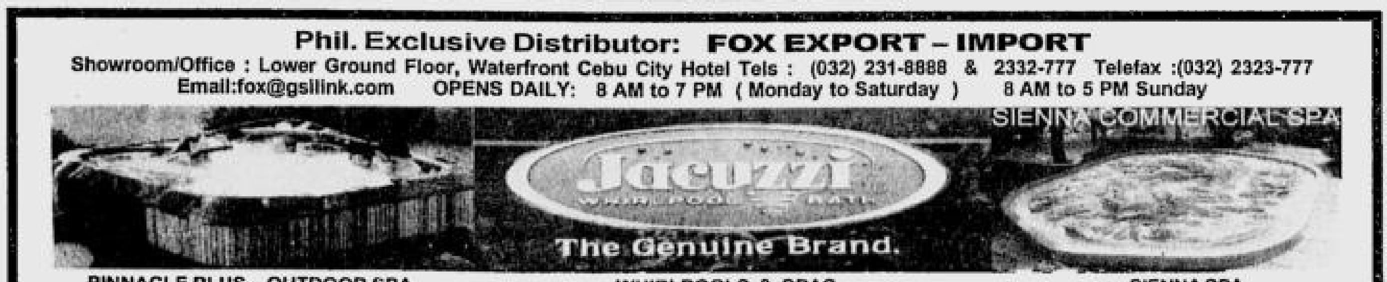

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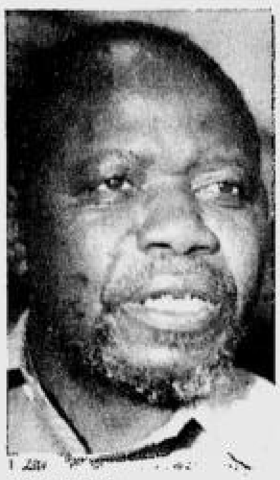
Zimbabwean to receive Press Freedom Prize



NYAROTA

ZIMBABWEAN journalist Geoffrey Nyarota will be awarded the Unesco/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize for 2002 during the World Press Freedom Day celebration here on May 3.

The 50-year-old Nyarota, the editor in chief of Zimbabwe's Daily News, is being cited for tirelessly denouncing corruption and criminal activities among top government officials in his country despite continuing threats and intimidation against him.

He has been arrested and detained, repeatedly received death threats, and has pending libel suits.

In January 2001, a bomb exploded at the newspaper's plant in Harare.

"The courage and persistence of Geoffrey Nyarota, who has not yielded to the enormous pressure on him in the last few years, is an example to all the world's journalists," Unesco director general Koichiro Matsuura said in his tribute to this year's awardee.

The award will be conferred on Nyarota in Malacañang at a ceremony to mark World Press Freedom Day and with President Macapagal-Arroyo as guest of honor.

The Unesco/Cano Press Freedom Prize was created in 1997 to honor the work of an individual, organization or institution defending or promoting freedom of expression anywhere in the world. It was named after Colombian journalist Guillermo Cano who was murdered for having criticized the activities of powerful drug barons in his country.

The $25,000 prize is awarded each year on the recommendation of an independent jury of journalists from all over the world.

The Daily News, which Nyarota helped organize in 1999, has not missed a single issue and is now the country's biggest-selling newspaper with a circulation that far exceeds government-controlled newspapers.

It figured prominently in the coverage of the invasion of white-owned farms by war veterans encouraged by the ruling ZANU-PF party.

Nyarota was arrested for denouncing the use of police vehicles in the pillages. The newspaper's coverage of the issue was one of the reasons for the party's loss in the May 2000 elections. This was followed by a series of threats, both to his newspaper and his own life.

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Most of Gloria's men expected to run in 2004

By Dona Pazzibugan

MOST members of President Macapagal-Arroyo's official family are casting a moist eye on the 2004 national elections, a ranking Palace official has said.

"Our problem is that by next year most of the Cabinet (members) will resign because they'll be running. We'll be decimated," said the official who asked not to be named.

Only a handful of the Cabinet members, the so-called "technocrats," are expected to stay.

One Cabinet secretary is expected to run for president, while two are vying for vice president.

Ten Cabinet secretaries are expected to run for the Senate, and two for the House of Representatives.

Earlier, presidential adviser Norberto Gonzales confirmed that Ms Macapagal will run in 2004.

Although she publicly berated Gonzales for talking about her political plans, the President neither confirmed nor denied that she would run.

Education Secretary Raul Roco will again run for president, the Palace official said.

Roco placed third in the 1998 presidential election which jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada won by a landslide.

According to the same official, Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. would run for vice president. "He's too old to run for president," the official said.

Trade Secretary Mar Roxas is reportedly still vacillating between running for vice president or for senator.

Roxas is reportedly being urged by his party mates in the Liberal Party to go for the higher post.

But the source said Roxas was weighing his chances carefully. "He's a *segurista* (he plays to win)," the official said.

Those who are expected to run for the Senate are Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes; Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo; Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon; Interior Secretary Joey Lina; Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong; Agrarian Secretary Hernani Braganza; Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit; National Security Adviser Roilo Golez; and HUDCC chief Mike Defensor.

The official said Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez and Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez would run for House seats.

The Cabinet secretaries that are expected to stay on are Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho; Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin; Energy Secretary Vincent Perez; Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas; Science Secretary Estrella Alabastro; Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor; and Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas.

Press Secretary-on-leave Rigoberto Tiglao is not expected to run either.

The source said Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman was still in a "gray area" on the subject.

"She has been all over the country but some think that is not enough to win," the official said.

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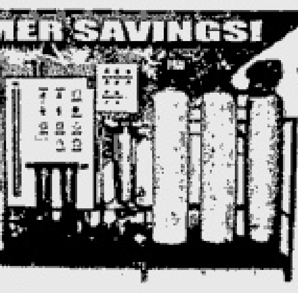

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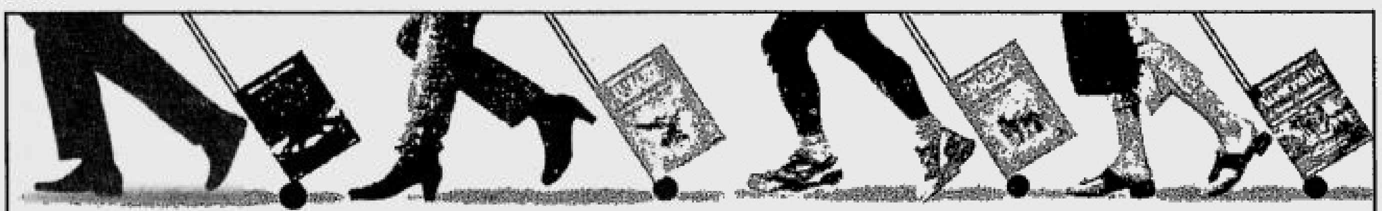

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Gov't telecom office in General Santos bombed

From page A1

supply room and administration building of the Telecommunication Office (Telof-12) on Datu Liwa Candao Street were destroyed.

Elsewhere in Mindanao, a total of seven suspected bombers were killed in separate clashes yesterday with the police and military. But their identities remained unknown.

Supt. Sanggacala Dampac, Cotabato City police director, said initial investigation had shown that the bomb was planted Monday night. He said the explosion had nothing to do with previous bombings here and in General Santos City.

According to Dampac, Telof-12 Assistant Regional Director Kagi Buisan thinks he was the target of the bomb.

"I think the bomb was intended for me because I have a quarrel with my regional director," he quoted Buisan as saying.

Buisan earlier filed graft charges against Telof-12 Regional Director Kagi Brahim.

GenSan

Four suspected bombers were killed in a clash early yesterday with police in Barangay Bula, General Santos.

Police spotted the suspects and more than 10 other persons on board a *kumpit* (a boat with an outrigger) that was about to dock at the Bula shoreline around 3:45 a.m.

Senior Supt. Bartolome Baluyot, Central Mindanao police chief, told reporters that lawmen had been deployed in the area as early 2:30 a.m. on the strength of an intelligence report indicating that terrorists were to arrive at the village.

Upon seeing the group, the lawmen fired warning shots but were fired upon, Baluyot said.

He said a 20-minute firefight ensued and three of the suspects were killed. The fourth suspect died at the hospital where he was taken for treatment.

Baluyot said the other men managed to get away in the *kumpit*.

He said not one of the four killed had been identified, but that documents, including one containing an alleged plan to sow more terror in the village, had been recovered.

Among the alleged bombing targets are churches and four broadcast facilities, including a local television station owned by the ABS-CBN network.

Baluyot said some documents also indicated that Abu Muslim Alghazie, who earlier claimed to be a member of the Abu Sayyaf, had ties with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

But the MILF denied Baluyot's claim, saying it was another attempt to derail the peace process being undertaken by the government and the secessionist group.

"Baluyot should first verify if the information he has now is real or is part of attempts to muddle the peace negotiations," MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said.

Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, chief of the Armed Forces' Southern Command, said the mil'tary would first closely study the documents recovered from the slain suspects.

Cimatu refused to confirm the theory that Alghazie was connected with the MILF.

"Unless we can confirm the real identity of (Alghazie), we can't make any final conclusion yet," he said.

Maguindanao

Three other suspected bombers were killed in an encounter with members of the Army's 57th Infantry Battalion in Datu Odin Sinsuat town, Maguindanao.

Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said residents of Barangay Sapalan had tipped off the military about the presence of an armed group in the village.

He said the gunmen fired at the soldiers dispatched to check on the tip, resulting in a 30-minute clash.

The three men killed have yet to be identified.

Ando said the military invited for questioning a certain Abdulkadir Adam of Barangay Sapalan, but later freed him for lack of evidence on his alleged links with the slain men.

Camp Salahuddin

A raid of a former camp of the Moro National Liberation Front in Lanao del Sur has yielded homemade explosives.

The raid on the MNLF's Camp Salahuddin in Buadipuso-Buntong town, now a livelihood production area for former rebels, was conducted by the police and military Sunday morning.

Maj. Johnny Macanas, spokesperson of the Army's 4th Infantry Division, said the seized explosives were of the same type used in the bombings that had rocked General Santos and other parts of Mindanao.

But Macanas could not say whether the former MNLF rebels, led by Abduljabbar Ali, former interior secretary of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao under jailed Moro leader Nur Misuari, took part in the General Santos bombings that killed 15 people on April 21.

He said Ali, known as Commander Narra, could be planning to sow terror in the cities of Iligan and Cagayan de Oro.

The raiders' haul included five pipe bombs, six blasting caps, 100 meters of detonating cord, and an M-60 machine gun.

Macanas said the seized explosives were sufficiently potent to destroy power transmission lines.

He said the raiders were also able to recover some documents, but he refused to give details. Macanas also said soldiers were in pursuit of Narra's group. ***Reports from Edwin O. Fernandez, Aquiles Z. Zonio, Charlie C. Señase and Grace C. Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

No R&R for GIs in Ceboom

From page A1

American soldiers at the Mactan Benito Ebuen Air Base have not even seen the lights of Cebu City.

The US servicemen here, who serve as logistics and maintenance personnel to the Balikatan exercise in Zamboanga and Basilan, are not allowed to go out of the air base or the hotels where they are billeted.

When off-duty, some soldiers exercise in the gym or swim in the pool, both of which are in their hotels. Others play golf inside the base. And there are those who just sleep in their rooms.

In the absence of an official ban by the Philippine government, the more than 1,500 American troops participating in the Balikatan 02-2 in Luzon are not prevented from going to the red light districts outside Clark Field.

In fact, several servicemen have been seen entering bars on Fields Avenue in Angeles City, which is outside Clark, one of the venues of the joint military training in Luzon.

In contrast, the 250 US personnel who have been deployed in Mactan since February are not allowed to go around Cebu, Lapulapu City, or even Mactan.

Maj. Richard Sater, public information officer of the 432nd Aerospace Expeditionary Group, said their movements are restricted within the base and the hotel.

He said he exercises in the gym or plays golf whenever he is off-duty. But he admitted he would like to see the sights whenever he is abroad.

"But that is secondary to why I am here," he added, smiling.

'Not unfair'

Sater's commander, US Air Force Col. Jeff LeVault, said he did not mind staying in camp, unlike the American troops assigned in Luzon.

"I wouldn't call it unfair. We are here to do our mission . . . we are on call at a moment's notice," LeVault told the INQUIRER.

LeVault, a Roman Catholic, said he goes to Mass on Sundays in a church inside the base when he is off-duty. Sometimes he swims in the hotel pool or just sleeps in his room.

Lt. Col. Larry Willetts said the limited number of personnel assigned at the base made it impossible for them to go out for rest and recreation.

He said many of the servicemen work 12 hours a day, seven days a week and thus they prefer to stay in their hotels either to sleep or write letters for their loved ones.

"If we are not flying, we are busy tending to our aircraft. And we are on call anytime. We just don't have extra time to do R and R," Willetts said.

The American servicemen will only have their R and Rs after they finish their tour of duty here. A tour of duty usually runs from 45 to 90 days.

Base tour

Yesterday, US Air Force officials in Mactan took 60 Philippine Air Force personnel and members of the media on a guided tour of the US facilities inside the base. It was one of several tours to familiarize the Philippine military with the mission of the Mactan-based American troops.

Their mission is to provide air support, including cargo and personnel transport, medical evacuation, aerial refueling and reconnaissance.

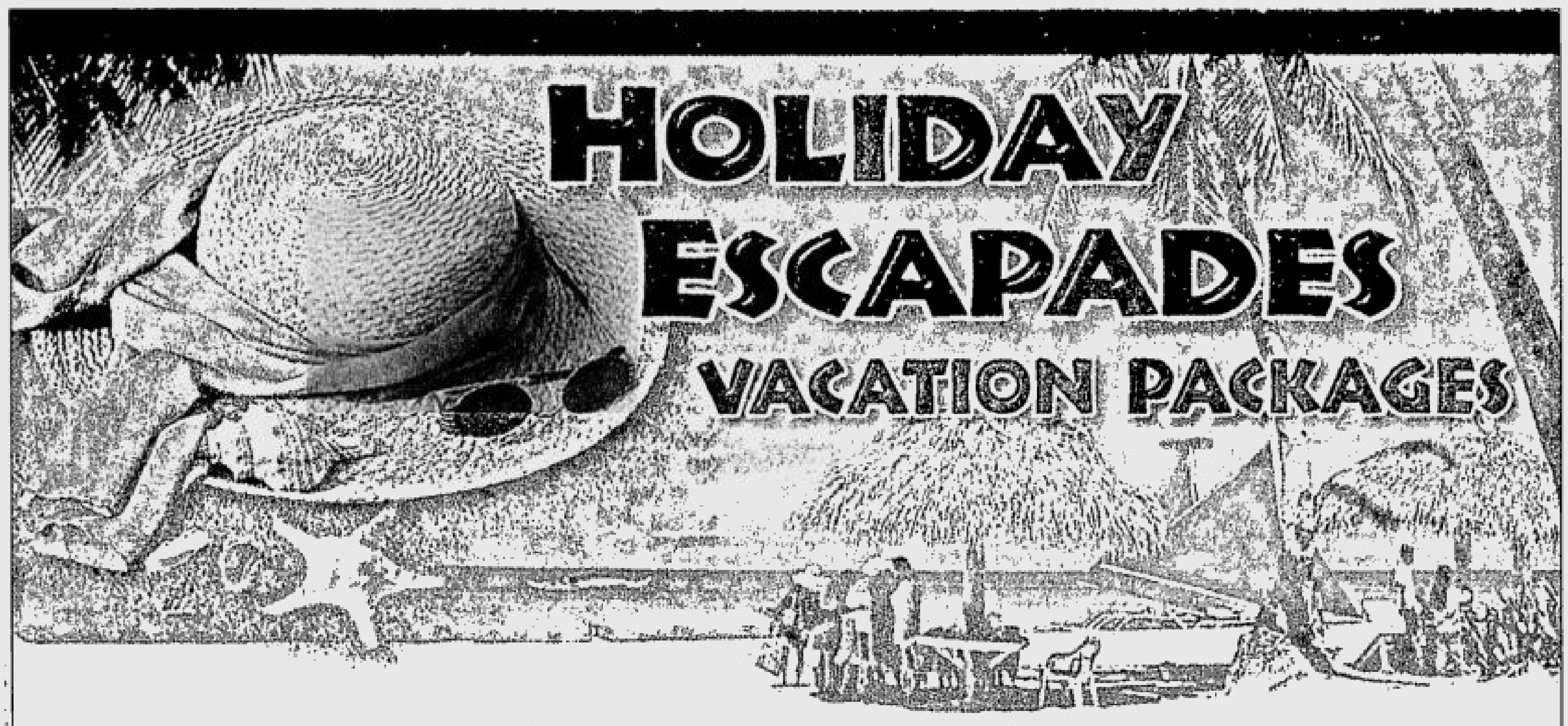
The PAF personnel and the reporters were taken inside an MC-130P plane known as the Combat Shadow, which primarily flies missions at night.

In the Life Support Shop, the US troops showed their Filipino counterparts the equipment they needed during an operation: survival vests, armored vests and night-vision goggles.

A survival vest contains just about anything needed to stay alive in the jungle: handheld GPS (Global Positioning System), tools, a strobe light, compass, radio and flares. A vest pocket contains Band-Aids, matches and even toothpicks.

In the Armory, the US servicemen displayed their Humvee vehicle, complete with a gunner and his machine gun.

There are two bomb-sniffing dogs stationed at the Mactan air base: a 3-year-old Belgian Malinois named "Kai" and a 6-year-old German Shepherd named "Ben."



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'LOWER ENTITY IN CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER'

Loi immune from court's contempt–Saguisag

By Volt Contreras

OPPOSITION Sen. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito cannot be compelled by the Sandiganbayan to answer the contempt charges filed against her by Plunderwatch by invoking parliamentary immunity.

"There is no reason for her to answer to a lower entity in the constitutional order," lawyer Rene Saguisag said in a manifestation calling for the dismissal of the civil complaint against Ejercito.

The April 17 petition for contempt named Ejercito; her husband, jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada; their son Jinggoy; and the Estradas' former counsels, Saguisag and Raymund Fortun, as respondents.

The case stemmed from what Plunderwatch called "the deliberate, determined and vicious assaults" by the respondents on the integrity of the Sandiganbayan, the Supreme Court and the entire justice system.

The Estrada camp had accused the Sandiganbayan and the high court of bias after the jailed ex-president, claiming that he would not get a fair trial, dismissed his nine private lawyers in late February.

'Prejudged'

Ejercito was cited for making the "attack" in a March 12 privilege speech where she said SC justices, or a majority of them, "will always rule against my family, for (they) have prejudged the cases against (her)."

Plunderwatch said that Ejercito "hid behind the cloak of parliamentary immunity and used the Senate as a forum... (and) maliciously accused the Supreme Court of bias, prejudgment and politicking."

Twenty-one members of the Plunderwatch civil society group signed as petitioners, including Catholic priest Jose Dizon, former TV personality Maan Hontiveros, film director Behn Cervantes and anti-crime activist Dante Jimenez.

But Saguisag contended that "no senator should even have to be asked to comment here to explain what she said in a privilege speech."

He noted that the special Sandiganbayan division hearing the Estrada cases had asked the respondents to comment "instead of dismissing outright the petition for contempt against her (Ejercito) so as not to violate her parliamentary immunity."

The charge against the senator should be "deemed withdrawn forthwith to avoid unnecessary and undesirable complications," said Saguisag who is a former senator himself.

Plea for knee

In a related development, Makati Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino said yesterday Estrada's request to be allowed to undergo knee surgery abroad will be aired during the political summit set to open on Friday.

Aquino said he expects the various political parties participating in the "All Parties Conference" scheduled for May 3 to 5 to support Estrada.

"We don't expect a unanimous (approval) but we're confident we will get a near-unanimous (consensus)," Aquino said in a phone interview.

Signature withdrawn

Aquino said he might sponsor a resolution or proposal to that effect during the summit.

"We will make our feelings felt. We don't want to meddle but in the spirit of reconciliation (this should be granted)," said Aquino, the secretary general of the opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino.

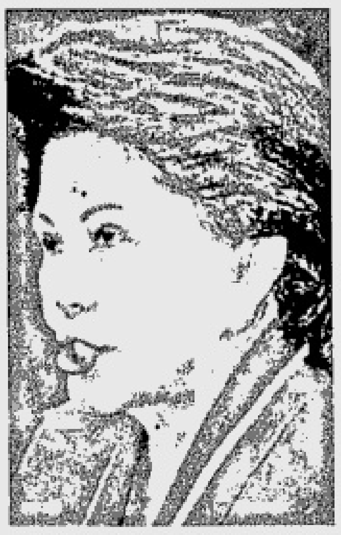
Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez (Nacionalista Party) said he was not averse to Aquino's proposal.

Gonzalez was one of the authors of the House resolution in support of Estrada's petition. But he withdrew his signature when Estrada dismissed his lawyers and attacked the judiciary.

"I have withdrawn my support to the resolution but I'm not close-minded on it. I'm convinced that this is the most humanitarian thing to do," Gonzalez said.

The three-day political summit, with the theme "modernizing the political institutions of a democratic and prosperous national community," is to begin on Friday with President Macapagal-Arroyo as the keynote speaker.

Twelve major and 10 regional political parties will be attending, along with 12 party-list groups with members in Congress. ***With a report from Juliet Labog-Javellana***



EJERCITO

UP president laments RP's 'subservient' foreign policy

UP PRESIDENT and political scientist Francisco Nemenzo has criticized the foreign policy of the government as "subservient" and "mendicant," the same terms used by the late Sen. Claro M. Recto in his speech at UP commencement exercises half a century ago.

Nemenzo made this remark as commencement speaker at the recent general commencement exercises of UP Diliman. He said the country squandered an opportunity to pursue an independent path after the termination of the RP-US military bases agreement.

As an example, Nemenzo mentioned the "mendicant" way the Philippine government sought the help of foreign troops in crushing the Abu Sayyaf.

"Asking a foreign power to help us do this job is an insult to the Filipino soldiers. It is also an abdication of our sovereignty," Nemenzo said. He added that the more important problem to consider in Mindanao is "ethnicity," which will not be solved by just crushing the Abu Sayyaf.

He also doubted if the Philippines, even after expressing all-out support to US President George W. Bush's declared war on terrorism, would get any help other than antiquated weapons to modernize the Armed Forces. "The US is known for magnanimity to former enemies, not for generosity to servile friends," he said.

Quoting from philosopher Nicolo Machiavelli, he said that a ruler "who trusts his own people would rely on a militia, the people in arms; but a ruler who is scared of his own people would invite foreign troops." Eventually, foreign intervention would make the state a colony of its stronger ally.

Nemenzo saw the wisdom in soberly considering genuine autonomy for the Bangsamoro people. "This is the proper context for debating the issue of federalism," he said, not the context of the American experience.

Nemenzo expressed support for federalism to grant autonomy to areas inhabited by ethnic minorities who are used to governing themselves according to their own laws. However, he said, this should not be the case in provinces or regions dominated by political dynasties, who may use federalism to carve out their own independent fiefdoms.

"That is a formula for weakening an already weak nation-state," he said.

Nemenzo also discussed the power of the nation-state vis-à-vis people power, and "globalization." He said that neither the old adversarial means of criticizing or undermining authority nor the habit of invoking people power versus the state is the way to go in transforming society. He said activism today should be more intelligent.

"The only structure accessible to reform-minded individuals and organizations that has the potential of transforming society is the state.

Restricting its authority… will only enhance the power of the hidden manipulators," Nemenzo said.

The parliamentary system would not only result in weakness of the state but—considering the features of Philippine politics—political paralysis. He instead envisions a civil society strong enough to make the people's aspirations known by the authority and guide the decisions of the state. He added: "But once the legitimate authority makes a decision, it should be implemented vigorously and carried through to the end. People's power should not be invoked to obstruct implementation if the outcome of consultation is contrary to your wishes."

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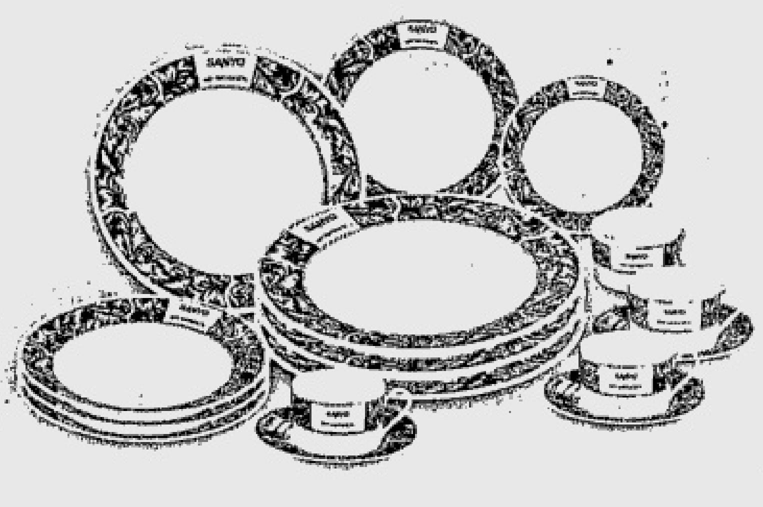

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No more weekly Cabinet meets

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has released her Cabinet members from attending weekly meetings in Malacañang.

At her weekly Cabinet meeting yesterday, she told them that henceforth, they will meet monthly or every last Tuesday of the month.

Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable Jr. said the President wanted to give Cabinet members "more time" to attend to their responsibilities.

He said a lot of the Cabinet members' time is consumed by preparing for the weekly Cabinet meetings.

The latest Pulse Asia survey showed that the trust rating of most Cabinet members, including the President's, went down.

"It's time for Cabinet members to focus on the implementation of (the President's national agenda) by coordinating with each other without having to meet with the Chief Executive," Afable said.

He said the President will just call for small Cabinet meetings "when necessary."

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CLOSING DATE
For coursework-based programmes – 15 July 2002
For research-based programmes – 31 May 2002

RP mangoes make it to US

By Dona Pazzibugan

AGRICULTURE Secretary Leonardo Montemayor (right) presents a basket of mangoes to President Macapagal-Arroyo and US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone symbolic of the first batch of mango exports to the US. The ceremony was held in Malacañang.

EDWIN BACASMAS

AFTER 16 years of negotiations, Philippine carabao mangoes will finally be exported to the United States.

Some 200 to 400 boxes of mangoes from Guimaras Island will be shipped to Los Angeles, California, next week, Trade Undersecretary Ernesto Ordoñez announced yesterday in Malacañang.

President Macapagal-Arroyo received officials of the Mango Exporters Association, the Department of Agriculture and the US Embassy in Malacañang yesterday.

Ordoñez said "Philippine super mangoes" have a strong chance of displacing Mexico's "Manila mangoes" which dominates the $220 million annual fresh mango trade in the US.

"Our mangoes taste better and are priced well. Our only problem was access (to the US market). Now that they opened it up, we think (our mango exports) will really shoot up," he said.

In the same news conference, US Embassy agriculture attache Michael Woolsey said a lot of scientific tests was done in Guimaras Island and plant treatment plants here to make sure they pass US quarantine requirements.

"We're very excited by this. Americans now have a chance to taste the delicious (Philippine) carabao mangoes for the first time," he said.

Ordoñez said they expect to ship only 900 to 1,000 metric tons of Guimaras mangoes this year because of limited harvest.

But he said that in the next five to 10 years, they hope to corner at least 20 percent of the $220 million US fresh mangoes trade.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, May 1, 2002
St. Joseph, the Worker
1st Reading: Gn 1:26—2:3 or Col 3:14-15, 17, 23-24
Gospel: Mt 13:54-58

Jesus went to his hometown and taught the people in their synagogue. They were amazed and said, "Where did he get this wisdom and these special powers? Isn't he the carpenter's son? Isn't Mary his mother and aren't James, Joseph, Simon and Judas his brothers? Aren't all his sisters living here? How did he get all this?" And so they took offense at him.

Jesus said to them, "The only place where prophets are not welcome is their hometown and in their own family." And he did not perform many miracles there because of their lack of faith.

Commentary

The scripture readings bring together human beings and God under the theme of work. We read about creation as God's work, and then about the work of Joseph the carpenter and the son who followed in his footsteps. To be human is to love and to work. These are also the hallmarks of the divine. Love is the dynamism to create, share and enter into relationship. God's work is the limitless universe, the blue-green planet earth, at once so vast and so tiny, with all its diversity of people, animal, plants, elements, and all the new combinations born of their interactions. Our role: to love and to work: preserving, promoting and developing life, by creatively using all that God has provided. Our responsibility: to give always back more than we take out; this makes our work truly God-like.

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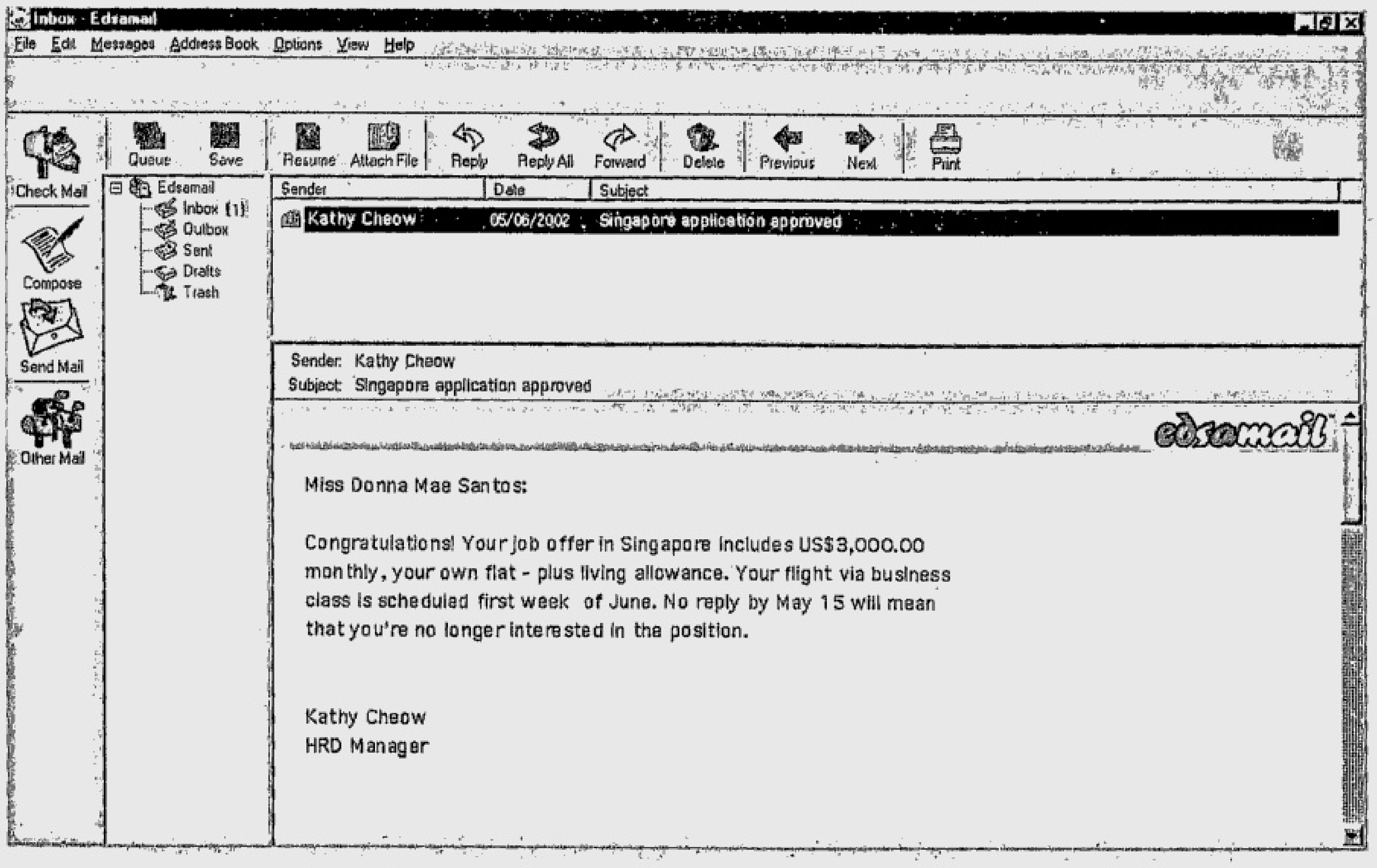

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Abu chief mere propagandist, says military

By Martin P. Marfil

THE ARMED Forces yesterday dismissed the taunts of Abu Sayyaf leader Abu Sabaya, calling him a mere propagandist.

"Those are just propaganda lines and everyone is convinced how really bad, how dastardly the Abu Sayyaf is," said Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta who heads the AFP's public information office.

Mabanta asked for more patience from the people while hoping for luck in the military campaign to rescue American hostages Martin and Gracia Burnham and Filipino nurse Ediborah Yap.

Abu Sabaya, a.k.a. Aldam Tilao, recently said the failure of the AFP and their US military allies to rescue the Burnhams and defeat the Abu Sayyaf after an 11-month operation was an embarrassment for the government.

He proposed that the government enter into negotiations with the Abu Sayyaf.

Mabanta reiterated that there would be no conditions and no negotiations for ransom.

"All of these things are really geared toward propaganda, so the AFP would not be swayed by his (Abu Sabaya's) rhetoric," Mabanta said.

He added that the AFP already knew where the Abu Sayyaf and their hostages are holed up. The area has already been saturated with troops, he said.

Human rights groups in Basilan, meanwhile, have expressed alarm over reports that the military would crack down anew on suspected Abu Sayyaf members in the province.

"(It) could create havoc, anxiety, apprehension and even fear among the people," said Jose Manuel Mamauag, the director of the Commission on Human Rights in Western Mindanao.

Mamauag said he saw nothing wrong with the intensified military campaign against the Abu Sayyaf, "but it must be consistent with constitutional guarantees and statutory rights."

Karen Muñasque of the militant Karapatan said the group would oppose any effort to arrest innocent civilians.

"This is too much and worse than the Marcos' era," Marie Enriquez, also of Karapatan, said.

The military's Southern Command has denied that the military was planning a crackdown on suspected bandits in the island.

Lt. Col. Danilo Servando, Southcom spokesperson, said the only order coming from Southcom chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu was for an increase in "security preparations such as intensifying the naval blockade in the waters of Basilan and Zamboanga."

The heightened alert is to start today. ***With a report from Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

COMELEC ROW

Angara chides Benipayo on leadership

By Rocky Nazareno

BENIPAYO

COMELEC chair Alfredo Benipayo should exercise more leadership and "set aside personal resentment" to settle his row with the four commissioners who have opposed his confirmation by the congressional Commission on Appointments, said Sen. Edgardo Angara.

Angara chided Benipayo for failing to come up with the agreed ground rules to govern the Comelec's en banc operations and decisions.

"What you have to do is to negotiate the two drafts and agree on one working agreement. That is part of leadership. For the sake of our country, can't you set aside personal resentment?" he asked Benipayo during yesterday's CA confirmation hearing for the Comelec chair and Comelec commissioners Resurreccion Borra and Florentino Tuason Jr.

Benipayo, Borra and Tuason have been at loggerheads with four other Comelec commissioners—Luzviminda Tancangco, Ralph Lantion, Rufino Javier and Mehol Sadain—who are all appointees of jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada.

Angara noted that the continued feuding in the Comelec has hindered the implementation of much-needed electoral reforms.

Earlier this year, congressional leaders led by Angara and Speaker Jose de Venecia tried to broker a reconciliation between the two groups.

After that meeting, the two sides agreed to draft their respective proposals for a common working agreement to govern en banc meetings.

The Tancangco group has already drafted a 15-page proposal but the Benipayo camp has yet to come up with its own.

"This is a process of give and take," Angara told Benipayo.

Benipayo informed the CA yesterday that Tuason was "already working on the draft."

Angara stressed that unless the two groups submit a common working agreement on en banc meetings, it would be useless for the CA to confirm anyone.

"What's the use of sitting here and confirming them if they cannot work as a body? We might end up having a non-performing, noncollegial body," he said.

The Benipayo and Tancangco groups have promised to submit a common working agreement when the commission meets again to tackle the confirmation of Benipayo, Borra and Tuason.

Riano, 49

PETER Gil B. Riano, former building administrator of Asiavest Credit Inc. and of Medical Towers, died on April 27. He was 49.

Riano, of Cajidiocan, Romblon, is survived by son Milo of Sycip, Gorres and Velayo, and daughter Maan of Procter & Gamble, as well as brother Willard, a lawyer-bar reviewer, and sister Pearl Umali, now in the US.

His body is at the Catholic chapel of Sun Valley subdivision in Parañaque City. It will be brought on May 4 to Cajidiocan, Romblon, where it will be interred.

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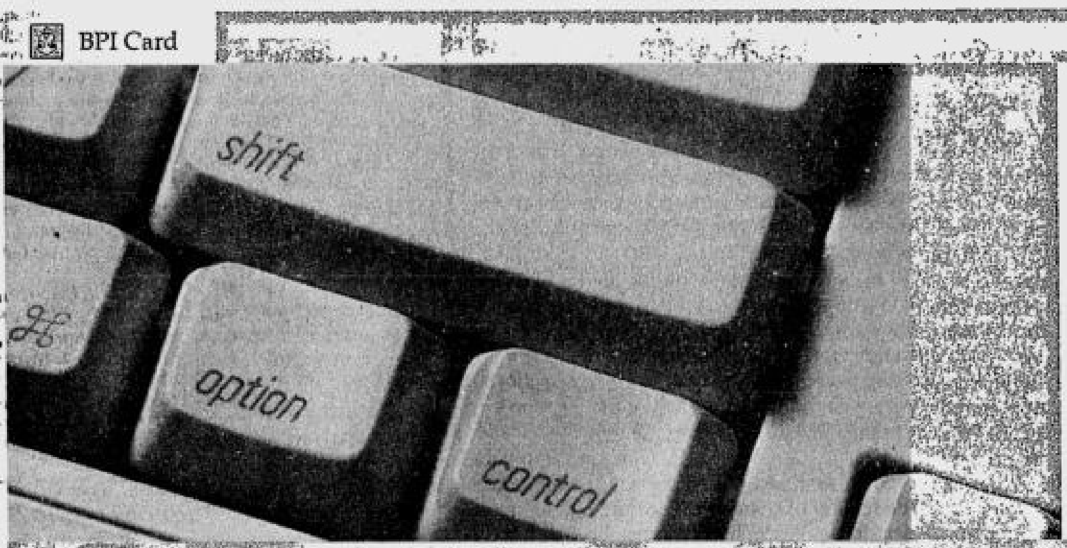

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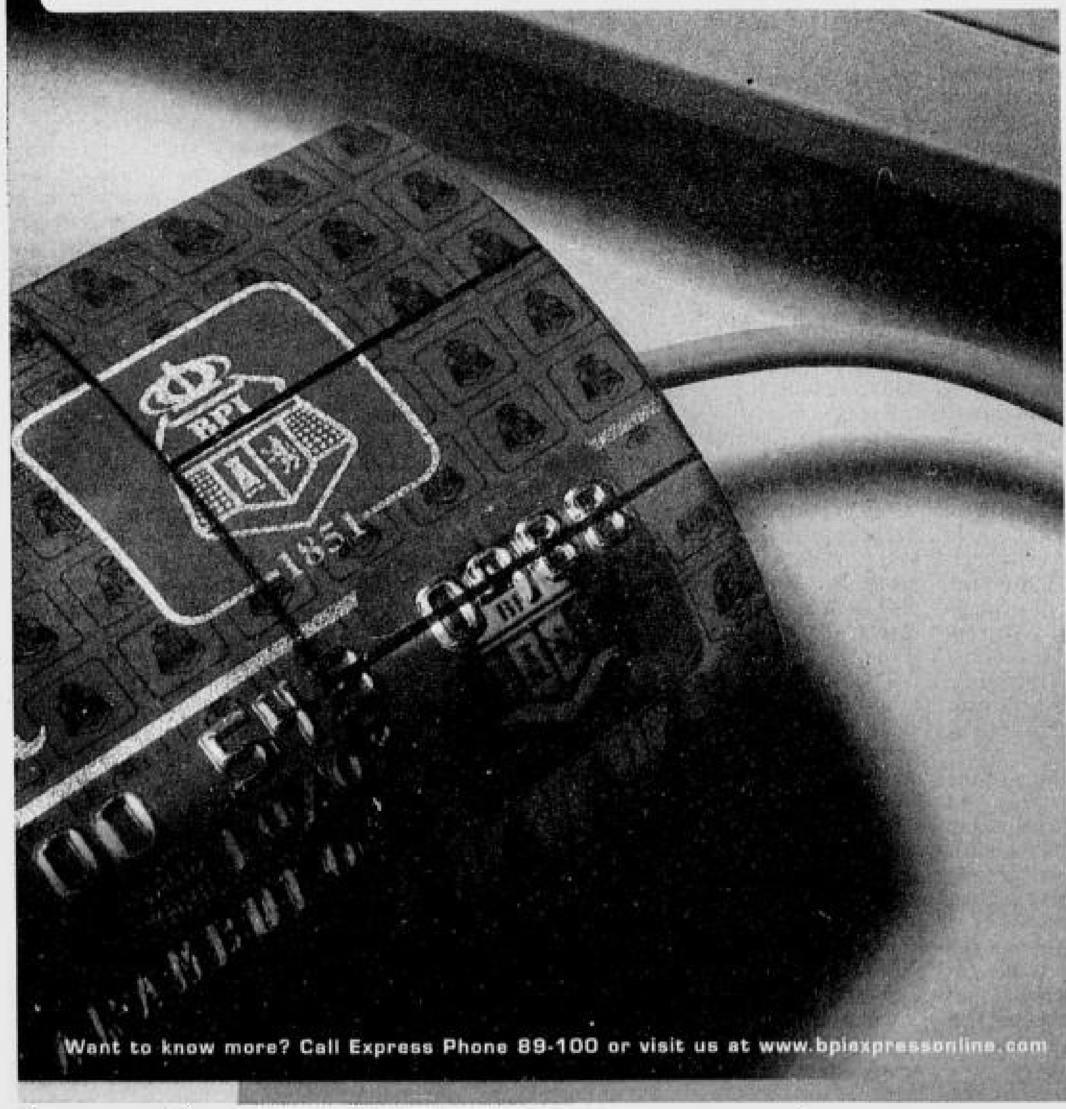
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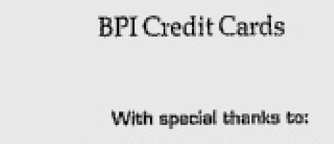
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Poverty and security

EDITORIAL

WHEN was the last time the nation had a Labor Day celebration? It's hard to remember. Every Labor Day in memory seems to have turned into an occasion for confrontation between labor and government, between the haves and the have-nots.

Still nothing in past commemorations came close to the violence of last year's May Day mayhem, when supporters of deposed President Estrada stormed the gates of Malacañang. Of course, organized labor would not lend its name to that tragic misadventure when the urban poor, responding to the agitation of discredited politicians, attacked the seat of power to demand the restoration to the presidency of their disgraced idol. But there's no denying the motive force behind what many commentators have since called the "revolt of the poor." So much anger could only have sprung from so much poverty and deep-seated frustration.

But while everyone, especially the Macapagal administration, has acknowledged that the root of the problem is economics and pledged to apply the appropriate solutions, it is still politics that dominates the national agenda. Even today's Labor Day observance has been hijacked by the politicians, with some opposition leaders and administration critics offering to lead the demonstrations to persuade Estrada to "reclaim" the presidency.

Apparently still unsure of itself and quite jittery, the administration has been quick to answer, with everything it has, every rumor and every threat. Today, for instance, the Philippine National Police is fielding 6,000 men to guard Malacañang and "to serve as deterrence to violence." This despite repeated assurances from leaders of the pro-Estrada groups that there would be no repetition of last year's Palace siege. Or if their word is not good enough, there are the survey results showing support for the fallen leader being eroded and the failure of Estrada loyalists to gather big throngs for another "Edsa Tres" in January and during Estrada's birthday last month. "Better safe than sorry" seems to be the guiding principle of the Macapagal administration in regard to its own security.

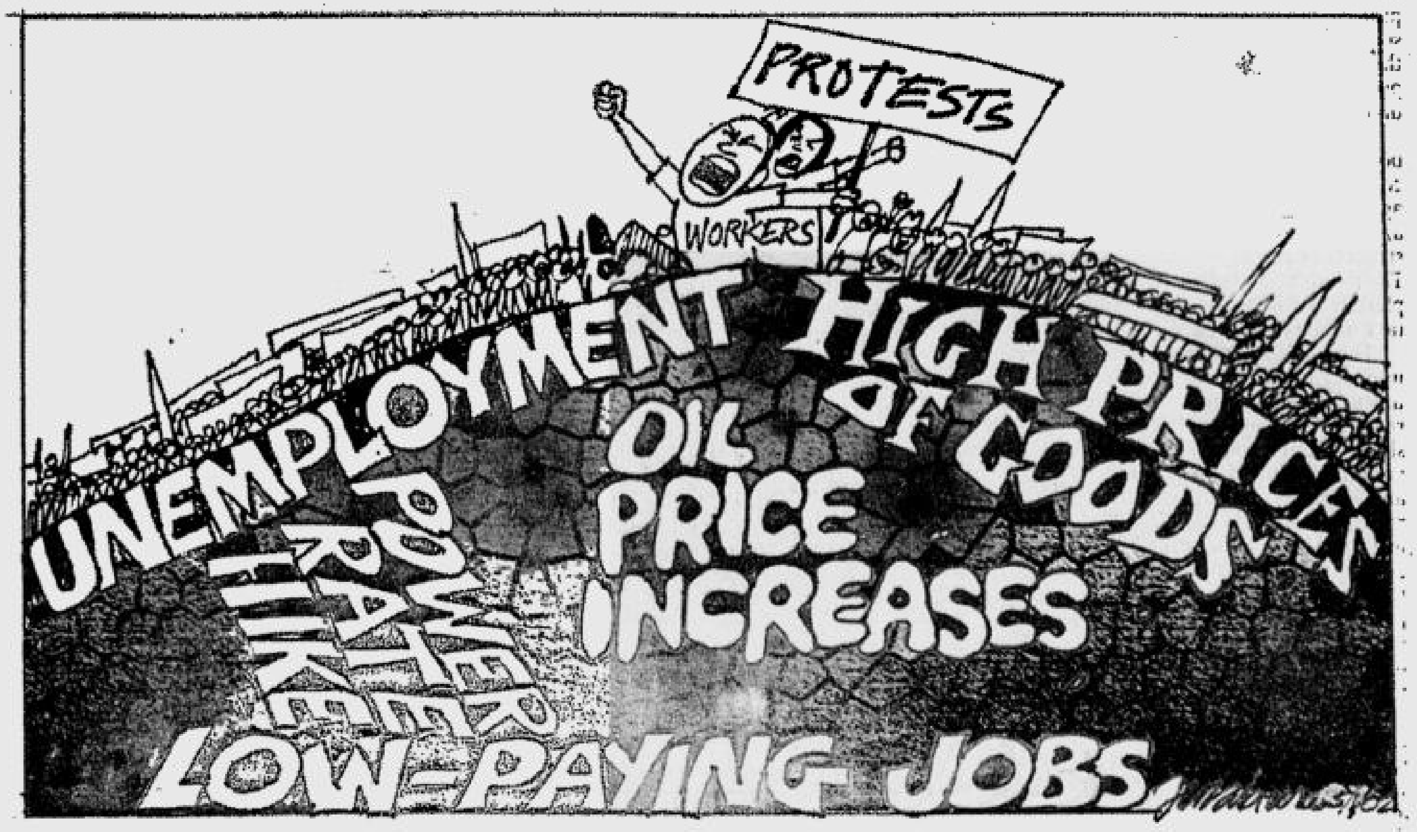
Which isn't bad—until it gets in the way of solving fundamental problems like poverty. But quite often the obsession with staying in power and remaining in power beyond 2004 has become not just a distraction but an obstruction to the attainment of urgent economic goals.

On any given day, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo can rattle off a number of encouraging economic statistics. Prices are stable, and so is the foreign exchange rate. Interest rates are down, with Treasury bill rates lately sliding to all-time lows. The budget deficit has been tamed. The county has earned upgrades in its ratings from Standard and Poor's and Moody's Investors Service. And in a year when most Asian economies contracted, the Philippine economy grew 3.4 percent last year.

The bad news is that while our rate of growth was better than in most other Asian countries, it still was not good enough to make a dent on poverty. A World Bank report said the economy must grow 5 percent before the country can make any headway in its battle against poverty. Thomas Crouch, the director for the Philippines of the Asian Development Bank, has concluded that the incidence and severity of poverty remained unchanged last year on account of high unemployment and population growth as well as low income growth.

Unemployment was down to 10.3 percent in January from 11.3 percent a year earlier, but that still left 3.39 million workers jobless. This, despite the government's claim that 794,164 jobs had been created from October last year to March this year in the agriculture and fisheries sectors alone. In the meantime, an average of 2,748 Filipino workers have been leaving daily to work overseas, up from 2,551 a year ago. That adds up to 280,882 workers from the beginning of the year to April 17, according to the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration. If the trend continues, more than one million workers will be leaving this year, and what is even worse, a growing number are professionals, particularly in the field of health and information technology.

Nothing better reflects the state of the economy, or at least the Filipino people's perception of it, than this continuous exodus to foreign lands. When this drain is plugged, only then can the government claim some measure of success in its war against poverty. But if her administration can win some, Ms Macapagal doesn't need to watch her back or keep looking at 2004.



Caloocan lost ₱193M in real property scam

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

FILIPINOS are very inventive, enterprising and imaginative when it comes to committing scams and getting away with it. Here is one of the latest (there may be others we are still unaware of), pulled off in 1998.

You know that valuable land in Caloocan City where the Ever-Gotesco mall stands beside the Bonifacio Monument? That was sold in April 1998 for P182.08 million and the title transferred to Gotesco Investments. But the City of Caloocan never got the money. The city not only lost the payment for the lot itself, but also the P9.6-million payment for real estate taxes and almost P1 million in transfer fees. How did this happen?

According to the final report on the investigation made by the National Bureau of Investigation, this was how it was pulled off:

- That commercial property on Rizal Avenue Extension consisting of 22,685.80 square meters was titled in the name of the City of Caloocan in 1973 under TCT 54327. In 1983, it was leased by the City to Gotesco for 25 years renewable for another 25 years. The lease agreement stipulated, among other things, that the building and improvements thereon shall become the property of Caloocan upon expiration of the lease.
- In 1990, then Mayor Macario Asistio Jr., pursuant to Ordinance 068, executed an absolute deed of sale disposing of the said property to Gotesco for P6,000 per sq m or for a total sum of P136,114,800. As required by law, Asistio requested then Chair Eufemio Domingo of the Commission on Audit to approve the sale. Before acting on the request, the latter ordered the COA's Special Audit Office (SAO) to examine the proposed transaction.
- In May 1991, Domingo disapproved the sale based on the SAO report. Auditors found out that the sale of the property was not subjected to public bidding and that the price of P6,000 per sq m was too low compared to their appraisal averaging P16, 592.04 per sq m.
- Moreover, the auditors discovered that the lease contract between Caloocan and Gotesco contains provisions which were disadvantageous to the city government and that there were unresolved issues on rental payments, costs of construction, etc.
- Domingo recommended that the transaction be subjected to public auction before a renegotiation can be made with Gotesco to raise the price to at least P15,000 per sq m. He also recommended to Asistio the amendment of the contract of lease to include provisions fair to the government should the city decide to continue the lease of the land instead of sale and that Gotesco be informed of the discrepancies between their cost of constructing the projects and the COA-estimated costs so that proper adjustments could be made on the affected accounts, etc.
- No reconsideration or appeal was taken either by the city government or Gotesco Investments from that COA decision disapproving the sale. There is no record that the city and Gotesco renegotiated the deal. There is also no showing that the city and Gotesco rectified the adverse findings of the COA auditors with respect to the lease contract. Hence, the disapproval by Domingo of the disposition of the property became final in 1991.
- In 1998, acting without the knowledge, consent or approval of the City of Caloocan at that time and now headed by Mayor Rey Malonzo, Gotesco, for the first time after four years from its disapproval in 1991, sought the reconsideration by the COA of the disapproval of that 1990 deed of absolute sale.
- COA Chair Celso D. Gangan, who succeeded Domingo, at first did not accommodate the request of Gotesco to reconsider Domingo's decision. Gotesco, however, persisted and even assailed the COA auditors' adverse findings.
- Eventually, under COA decision 97-307 promulgated on June 3, 1997, the COA Commission Proper composed of Chair Gangan and Commissioners Sofronio B. Ursal and Raul F. Flores, reconsidered the disapproval of that 1990 deed of absolute sale by Domingo without, however, subjecting the transaction to public bidding. It also appears that Caloocan was totally unaware of the reconsideration efforts of Gotesco. In the process of reconsideration, Caloocan was not informed nor was it made to express its position on the matter.
- The timely objections of COA Local Government Unit (LGU) Director Crescencio Sunico that the disposition of the property doesn't have the benefit of public bidding and that there was no compliance with applicable laws and rules were ignored by the COA Commission Proper.
- In its decision 97-307, the COA Commission stated that it will not object to the proposed sale provided that the price be pegged at P8, 026.39 per sq m (or a total sum of P182,085,078.30). This price corresponds to the recommended appraised value of the property in 1989 that was determined in 1997 by the Valencia Appraisal Corp. which was hired by the COA. The president of this private appraisal company admitted, however, that it was paid P15,000 by Gotesco for making the appraisal.
- The Caloocan City Council adopted COA decision 97-307 under Ordinance 0236, s. 1997, dated Oct. 28, 1997. The same ordinance also amended the 1990 deed of absolute sale to conform to the decision of the COA Commission under a supplemental instrument of sale to be executed between the city and Gotesco.
- In a letter to Mayor Malonzo, Gotesco affirmed, consented and approved the selling price of P8,026.39 per sq m.
- Malonzo refused to go along with the transaction which he thought was unfair to the city. He vetoed Ordinance 0236.
- The City Council countered by passing Resolution 0609 s. 1997, on Nov. 13, 1997 overriding Malonzo's veto.
- Malonzo still opposed the transaction despite the override. **(To be continued)**

One year later

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

(*Conclusion*)

HAS President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo become the opposite of Erap?

Not at all.

Soon after "Edsa III," and in particular after the riots of May 1, I was asked by local and foreign reporters what I thought government should do to prevent it from happening again. I said government ought immediately to move directly and forcefully to lessen the burden of the poor. Not indirectly; which was by way of catering to businessmen first and waiting for the effects to trickle down to the poor—which never happens anyway. That phrase, "trickle down" always brings to mind the image of nectar in a sieve, which is the title of a novel about grinding poverty in India. The precious liquid is too thick to ever trickle through.

I said what government ought immediately to do was provide food and fuel subsidies to the people. Putting food and fuel transportation costs beyond reach of the poor was flirting with suicide. Making them more affordable on the other hand would release steam from the volcano, and in conjunction with the judicious use of other forms of government intervention, would allow it to cool off altogether.

I said there was a local saying, "*Aanhin pa ang damo kung patay na ang kabayo?*" That applied full force to the situation in the country. What will you do with "economic recovery," the phrase normally used to inveigle the poor to wait, when the poor have gone into a frenzy of rioting and looting?

Ms Macapagal never did anything of the sort. She did the opposite. She embraced even more passionately the one-size-fits-all model of liberalization preached by the International Monetary Fund, which she had been pressing for since the GATT debates at the Senate. Food prices have since been rising like the annual floods, a fact known to everyone except the Department of Trade and Industry. As the vendors in our market like to say when told that according to the newspapers, the prices of rice and canned goods should be lower than the ones they carry, "*Di bumili ka sa dyaryo.*"

And the oil companies have been raising their prices with impunity, finding an ally in Malacañang.

There was in fact another riot that happened in another Southeast Asian country before our May 1 riot last year. But which we did not pay much heed to or take as an augury of things to come. That was the riot, or series of riots, in Indonesia in 1998. Mobs broke into malls and stores, mainly owned by Chinese, and looted them. Some even went on to rape Chinese women.

Of course what made it different from our riot was not only its scale of its violence and duration but also the fact that it was orchestrated by the Indonesian military. It was a ploy by the generals when Suharto clearly could no longer hold on to power to create chaos and justify their coming in to restore order. But the ploy also relied on mass restiveness for its success, and Jakarta at the time was also seething with rage.

The reason for this was an IMF prescription, or order, for the Suharto government to remove all food and fuel subsidies in exchange for bail-out loans. What had allowed Suharto in the past to maintain a degree of political stability despite despotic rule had been those subsidies, which had helped appease the populace. With the subsidies removed, food staples and transportation fares shot upwards, which, combined with growing unemployment as a result of the 1997 financial crisis, left Indonesians in a daze. Hunger, as much as the machinations of the military, drove them to a frenzy. They stormed the stores and looted them.

That **can** happen here. "Edsa III" hints darkly as being just the beginning. You have nearly a tenth of the national population in Metro Manila, and nearly half of them living in hovels, and you know you're sitting on a powder keg. Ms Macapagal herself has admitted that her economic policies have not been felt the poor, though she is confident it will happen eventually. But pray, when, assuming it will? When the horse is dead? Or far more terrifyingly, when it has gone on a rampage?

But Ms Macapagal has not only not become the opposite of Erap in failing to act to rescue the poor from their lot, she has become **like** Erap in acting—in the sense of simulating, in the sense of pretending, in the sense of being an actor—to rescue the poor from their lot. That is the truly dismal spectacle, Ms Macapagal's attempts to wean the poor from Erap by doing an Erap. In lieu of substance, show biz. In lieu of truth, PR. In lieu of reality, smoke and shadow.

Erap had himself photographed eating with his hands in a poor man's hovel, Ms Macapagal has had herself photographed eating with her hands in a poor man's hut. Erap preferred keeping the company of movie stars to meeting important engagements, such as when he went to Cristina Gonzalez's wedding in lieu of the 100th anniversary of the Philippine Military Academy. Ms Macapagal preferred the wake of a young movie star named Rico Yan to that of a national artist named Lucio San Pedro. Erap turned himself in a video propaganda material as the "*Ama ng Masa.*" Ms Macapagal has turned herself in a television advertisement as the "*Ina ng Bayan.*"

She has even gone farther. She is now in a P200 bill and will soon be grinning at the world from giant billboards.

Someone once said "History repeats itself, the first time as tragedy, the second time as farce." He might have been speaking of the Philippines, whose history always swiftly turns from tragedy to farce. Frankly, I don't know which is tearfully funnier: a clown trying desperately to look like a serious person, or a serious person trying desperately to look like a clown.

One year later, and we're pretty much back to where we started. Except that the fuse has gotten shorter.

May Day mayhem

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE WORKING class in many parts of the world marks Labor Day today to celebrate its gains or to protest against the inroads of globalization on the social security welfare of trade unionism; but in the Philippines May Day is celebrated as a potpourri of grievances that have little to do with unions or their interests.

Demagogues still hoping for the return to power of deposed President Joseph Estrada are celebrating the anniversary of the May 1 rebellion against the Macapagal administration and are agitating the urban poor to stage another demonstration, although they have few takers this time. The military and the national police are less complacent and better prepared to crush another attack on the Palace.

Their celebration has nothing to do with the interest of the working class. The mobs that were unleashed at the Palace were recruited from the ranks of the lumpen proletariat of Metro Manila's slums. They composed the unemployed mass who are unrepresented in the trade union movement and who are unorganized. The trade union movement is composed of employed workers who have little interest in common with the floating lumpen denizens. The unions represent only a fraction of the available labor force. Their responsibility is to protect the economic and social security gains of union members from being eroded during an economic slowdown. Alleviating lumpen poverty is not their main concern.

The lumpen proletariat, however, is the recruitment ground for political agitation to provide warm bodies for assaults against authority for which they are compensated with something like a day's minimum wage and food enough for the day. Its deployment on Labor Day is therefore political. No matter what their social grievances connected with poverty are, street action by the masses does not alleviate poverty, create jobs or help them enter the organized labor force.

While the lumpen is being recruited either to topple the Macapagal administration or to achieve the unattainable—the return of Estrada to power—the unemployed masses are taking to the streets together with organized labor which has other objectives.

The main left-wing union, Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) is launching a campaign with both economic and political objectives. Like the unorganized lumpen, KMU seeks to oust President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo before the 2004 election—just as it joined the coalition to oust Estrada in 2001. It seeks to cut short her transitional presidency on economic and political grounds. It blames the administration for oil price rises, rejecting wage increase demands, "escalating corruption" and economic liberalization and privatization. These are economic reasons but KMU also throws in a political demand involving national security—a protest against the joint RP-US military Balikatan exercises.

The KMU has broadened its concerns beyond the traditional concerns of Labor Day and, what is more, it has not explained why the administration's alleged failure to meet these demands is a good reason to change government—again through the extra-electoral route. The KMU, however, spurns an alliance with groups who seek the return of Estrada, like the demagogic People's Movement Against Poverty. It does not want either Estrada or Ms Macapagal, and it does not tell us whom it wants—whether it is Vice President Teofisto Guingona, or a junta. What is clear is that the KMU wants us to take a big leap into the dark.

So, we find on Labor Day a number of groups representing different political tendencies and yet sharing space in the streets to call attention to their agendas that have nothing to do with promoting the economic and social interests of the organized labor force. From these manifestations, one political theme resonates—the abortion of the Macapagal presidency before 2004. This objective is shared by a so-called coalition composed of former allies in the movement for the resignation of Estrada.

The objective of this noisy and messianic group has no economic content at all and has very little to do with the interest of the working class, and yet it is getting into the act of celebrating Labor Day to promote the political agenda of unseating a government on the basis of its capricious criteria that it has failed to met its standards of governance. This group claims that a number of people—including Estrada loyalists—have joined a broad coalition whose "basis of unity is the... formation of a parliamentary government" within the framework of federalism.

This plan is something that can be cranked out in, and associated with the output of a nuthouse. Just to dismiss this project briefly, the plan has no indication at all about when and how it would take effect. Changing the presidential to parliamentary system requires a time-consuming process—constitutional change. The expeditious way to seize power, declare a revolutionary government and change the Constitution and the political system. Short of a power grab, you don't change a system as easily as erasing sentences in a blackboard. I don't think this group knows what nonsense it is talking about.

And yet, on Labor Day, the day of the working class, the streets have become the confluence of anti-administration groups nursing all sorts of grievances, leftists with a broad political agenda, pro-Estrada militants and their lumpen recruits—and worst, political crackpots who have assumed the burden of being the savior of the nation. The working class has been pushed to the backseat.

Old cars, old guys

I RODE two old cars last week. Old cars and old guys have things in common in Manila.

The first was a 1985 Toyota bought by a Korean friend a few days before we took our ride. It moved along all right, but it was challenged by the ordinary speed bumps on our side streets. It measured the bumps as it approached, then gathered its strength and just about made it over. The second was not a car but a van we bought 10 years ago. The body was from Avenida; the motor was second hand from Japan. The motor was so loud that you could not hear what people sitting next to you were saying. The only thing that really worked well was its powerful horn. Other cars backed off when we lumbered into intersections—our van scarred with 10 years of struggle in the city traffic—and honked our powerful horn. I'm sure other drivers thought that we have nothing to lose.

HIGH BLOOD

Denis Murphy

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. **—Ed.**

Old men like old cars go on working here long after they would be retired in other countries. In some ways, of course, they don't work as well as they did before but still, they do useful things and sometimes wonderful things. I'm thinking especially of old urban poor men and women and old priests.

Many elderly men and women in urban poor areas like Baseco, Manila at the mouth of the Pasig River are still a major support of their children and grandchildren. In a study being made there now, old people told the interviewer the following when asked to talk about poverty in their lives:

"The worst thing about poverty is seeing my grandchildren hungry. I give them my food. I can stand hunger better than the children."

"I'm not feeling well and have no money to go to the hospital. If I have a little money, I buy half a kilo of rice and cook it for my grandchildren. 'Have you eaten?' I ask them. That's why it's hard to be poor."

"My kids (married children) are poor also, so I can't ask help from them. Better I go hungry than my grandchildren."

"Old people here rely on themselves. They don't want to put pressure on their families, since they, too, are poor. We sleep on empty stomachs just to see our grandchildren eating."

These are men and women in their 60s and 70s. After a long hard life in the slums, they find there is still no chance to rest. Aling Helen, 70, says she still washes clothes, babysits or does any job she can to support a crippled husband (who abandoned her and the children for 20 years while he started a second family), their four children and 19 grandchildren, none of whom has a regular job.

Amy Lowell once wrote a poem about the moon still visible in the morning sky. It ends with the words, "How good to go light into light / And still giving light dying."

Old priests who are still hard at work is a new phenomenon everywhere in the world. Technically, priests can retire at 65, but there is so much work due to the lack of vocations that old priests keep on serving. For some, the years add wisdom, warmth and approachability. For others, there is more confusion and fearfulness. Still, both groups go on doing their best.

There is not much anyone can do for the old priests. They are doing what they want to do and doing it as well as possible. But can't we do something for the old people? Notice that the four statements quoted above deal with hunger. Hunger is the basic problem of most poor people. it is "the bottom line" in poverty according to the World Bank. Beside the old people in Baseco there are over 500 children there known to be second- or third degree-malnourished and there are probably twice as many not known by the health center. A thousand severely malnourished children a stone's throw from the Manila Hotel! Can't we feed our poor? The rolling stores of the government are not doing the job. In a recent poll of urban poor leaders only two out of 42 leaders used the stores regularly to buy rice.

Maybe old people can explain to the young members of the church that there's nothing easy in growing old, especially if the aging persons hoped for big changes in their lifetimes as most priests did.

Old cars need help, too. Can we lower the speed bumps?

Denis Murphy is over 60 and works with the Urban Poor Associates.

From infotainment to 'realitainment'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

PARDON me, but can you stand yet another mention of Rico Yan? The Philippines plays host on Friday to the global celebration of World Press Freedom Day, which will be preceded by a two-day international conference on the theme of this year's celebration: "Terrorism and the Media." Since the conference begins today, it seems only right that we take a look at how we in the local media are coping, doing our work in the face of the pressures we face. Among them: the new information technology, the dissipation of news sources and channels, the rapid blurring of the boundaries between news and entertainment, profit and public service. And nowhere are these issues illustrated more starkly for Philippine media than in the death of Rico Yan and the subsequent coverage.

So many theories have been offered on why Yan's death was covered so feverishly, and why the public lapped up the news and interviews, the public grieving and the private agonies that we all needed to be privy to. Of course, he was young, famous, "wholesome," and the other half of a love team whose movie was still playing when he passed away. But why did it become such a major news event—and a national obsession as well?

One reason is timing. Yan was found dead in bed on the morning of Good Friday, one of the rare days in the crowded calendar of the news media when all work stops and the relentless demands of reportage are stilled. He died in the midst of a news vacuum, on a day when media consumers had nothing on their plate but foreign cable news, re-runs of religious movies and mournful music. So into this vacuum rushed reporters smelling a story on a very slow news day, feeding a public hankering for distraction and a break from silence and boredom.

* * *

FROM GOOD Friday to Easter Sunday Yan was the only news in town. But even when Easter Monday rolled round, and other news of equal, if not more import was revealed, stories on Yan's wake and the public expressions of mourning took up more than half of evening TV news time. I'm not sure, for instance, if the queues around La Salle Greenhills became news magnets because they stretched for kilometers and drew mourners from even the provinces, or if they were so long and drew mourners from far and near because they had been featured so prominently on TV.

In the beginning, the news media were simply heeding the call of their "nature" and behaving according to their instinct to fill empty airtime and blank column space. But as the story's momentum built, and the competition to find more unique angles to an increasingly tired story heated up, we were treated to ever more bizarre investigations into a young man's life, his purported heroism, even sanctity, relationships, *bangungot* and possible drug-taking. In time, the coverage itself became the stuff of news, of scathing commentary and breast-beating by those at the forefront of the coverage vowing to learn from the experience, but only after the fact.

* * *

RICO Yan's passing was an excellent—but only "excellent" in terms of being clear-cut—example of "realitainment." Reality as entertainment, the logical extension of the development of "infotainment," when network, but also publishing, executives decided that the public would better patronize news delivered not straight up but gussied up, the sensational and salacious highlighted at the expense of analysis and accuracy.

"Realitainment," though, takes the embellishment of reality a notch higher. It is not just the presentation of news that is gilded, but the news itself. When entertainment values invade so-called "real" life, then one must ask if "real" people are not in a sense being called to be actors, to assume roles and behaviors that are expected of them, not what comes naturally.

To illustrate, the President some months back paid a visit to a Muslim community in Metro Manila, her encounters with the residents dutifully covered by the media. The organizers, though, apparently misjudged her schedule so she was unable to visit other communities that had been told to prepare for her arrival. Interviewed for TV, some residents of these overlooked neighborhoods waxed indignant, ranting before the camera about how "offended" they were by the presidential snub.

Was the inadvertent snub such a big offense? And were the residents really all that riled up? Or were they just "acting," rousing themselves to a fine snit to make for more compelling interviews?

* * *

WE see more and more examples of such news source "misbehavior" every day. Politicians have become masters of the sound bite, crafting their comments into pithy, witty and memorable remarks that are sure to make it in a 30-second story. Spokespersons of lobby groups, activist organizations, NGOs and even terrorists have mastered the art of emoting and inflating their claims the better to dramatize their causes.

But most alarming is how "realitainment" has come to infect even the proverbial person on the street. Train a camera on the participants and even a pocket protest erupts into militant fist-raising and ranting. Common folk interviewed in a marketplace or literally on the street about even the most prosaic of issues raise their normal decibel levels, grinning widely as their neighbors look over their shoulders, staring at the camera, and cheering at their more incendiary comments.

The trouble is that we know the audience knows it is all an act. Which brings us to question if anybody ever believes the news these days. Or are we all just fooling ourselves?

* * *

Comments to rjdavid@inquirer.com.ph

Mabini on exile in Guam

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

WHEN historians sigh and complain about the difficulty of finding materials for a research project, I often wonder if they would likewise whine and grumble over an abundance of sources. From my experience with Jose Rizal, the Philippine Revolution and the Filipino-American War, I know that it is more difficult to deal with many conflicting sources than to have only one voice, one point of view, in a unique historical source. Today, Labor Day, I had planned to write on Isabelo de los Reyes—one of the founders of the labor movement in the Philippines—but got sidetracked reading Rizal's criticism of his scholarship, or tracking down materials on his imprisonment and exile in Spain where he came in contact with radical followers of Bakunin. Then there is his involvement with the Philippine Independent Church. One could even write columns about his mother, Leona Florentino, the poetess of Vigan. I had so much material at my disposal I did not have time to read and digest these to come up with my Labor Day column.

Faced with a deadline, I turned to the correspondence of Apolinario Mabini. Although he wrote a great deal, most of his letters are cold and official. What can one expect from the "little president" who looked over all papers that came in and out of the office of Emilio Aguinaldo? One of the rare letters where Mabini shows his soft side was written while he was an exile in Guam in 1902. Addressed to his brother Alejandro in the Philippines, this letter gives us an idea of his imprisonment. More importantly a reflective and personal side of Mabini comes out as he wrote:

"Would to heaven that on my return I should find little *Lumpo* [his nephew] already walking. Paralysis does not matter anymore to me—one who is disappointed with the world and has drunk the bitterness of real life to the dregs. I wish nothing more than to be able to fall into eternal sleep, with the satisfaction of not having left a hateful memory behind me. But I do not wish it for one who has scarcely stepped on the threshold of existence, because soon he will find the road strewn with flowers."

After commenting on the death of someone who was kind to him, he continues:

"Our life here runs quietly and monotonously, without great joys or anxieties, which is, of course, only natural in a prison. We try to comfort ourselves with the thought that each situation in life has its sorrows and that there are other persons more weighted down with sufferings than we are.

"One of our worries is the question of food. We are given plenty of flour, rice, coffee and sugar of good quality for which we are very grateful; but from the time of our arrival here we have been fed on canned meat and canned tomatoes of which we are not only fed up but sick as well. Since last November I could no longer take canned meat, because it gives me nausea and makes me vomit, an ailment which I cannot attribute to my weak and sickly constitution, because the same thing happens to my companions, even to the most robust of them. "

One wonders whether the canned meat was spoiled or maybe the meat reacted badly with the tin, but Mabini wrote:

"Fortunately, this ailment is disappearing from the time the prisoners obtained authorization to go to Agana everyday, in groups of five, for purposes of recreation and exercise, from 9:30 in the morning to four o'clock in the afternoon, with the exception of four or five who did not ask for permission to go, because they did not like to or they could not go out."

Mabini was allowed to bring personal funds which he used to order fresh meat, eggs, chicken and other supplies. Aside from this he was often sent gifts even by complete strangers and fellow prisoners. It was a good deal except that Mabini found it oppressive to live on the kindness of strangers. He added:

"There is nothing I can say about this island for I have not seen any of it beyond the extension visible from my eyes from the windows of the prison. I can say, however, that the prime commodities are scarce here and costly. Only the flies and the rains are abundant, two things we do not lack, by the grace of God, throughout all seasons of the year. Kuya wishes that (you) send him some of (your) good *picadura* because the tobacco here is tasteless. With willingness and a little money, you can accomplish this request very easily. Buy a few packages of a pound each, place the packages one on top of another, bend them with *leteng* interlaced on all sides in the manner of a net, paste on top of the parcel a piece of paper with the address written on it in bold and clear letters, and then take it to the Post Office to place on it the stamps corresponding to its weight. If, in addition, you have the good idea of registering the parcel, you have nothing more to worry about because, so far, only very few parcels addressed to the prisoners have been lost."

Such detailed instructions for the sending of finely cut tobacco to be rolled into cigarettes. Did Mabini smoke? Prison does have a way of changing lives and I do wonder whether exile in Guam was good or bad for the hero we remember only as the "Sublime Paralytic."

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@ admu. edu.ph

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO . . .?

Francis M's drug case

RAP artist and television host Francis Magalona was arrested by policemen on May 29, 2001, for allegedly smoking marijuana. Arrested with him was companion Alfredo delos Santos. (PDI, 5/31/01)

An investigation showed that policemen saw Magalona and Delos Santos smoking marijuana inside a parked Honda CRV in New Manila, Quezon City. Delos Santos got off from the car when the policemen checked them out. But when he was about to be handcuffed, Magalona reportedly drove away which resulted in a car chase. The car stopped only when the police shot its tire. Police said they got a glass tooter, dried marijuana leaves and partially burnt and unused marijuana cigarettes from the two men. Both were detained in the cell of the Central Police District's Drug Enforcement Group but allowed to post bail after charges against them were filed.

They were each charged with violation of the Dangerous Drugs Act before the Quezon City Regional Trial Court on May 31, 2001. The case was raffled off to the sala of Judge Diosdado Peralta of Branch 95.

On June 4, Magalona filed a motion to allow a preliminary investigation which was denied two days later. The judge said his line of defense in the said motion "could be properly threshed out in a full-blown trial." The judge added that Delos Santos did not file a similar motion.

Delos Santos failed to appear during his arraignment on June 15, resulting in the issuance of an arrest warrant a week later. On June 22, Magalona refused to enter a plea when arraigned. He said to do so might be a waiver of his right to question the legality of his arrest. Magalona insisted that his arrest was illegal. The court entered a plea of not guilty on his behalf.

The prosecution rested its case on Oct. 18. The defense manifested that it will file a motion for leave of court to file a demurrer to evidence. A demurrer, if granted, leads to the dismissal of the case. The motion was filed on Oct. 23. It was denied on Nov. 14 because it was "not in order."

On Feb. 13, 2002, Magalona presented as documentary evidence to the CPD Laboratory Office a chemistry report showing that he was found negative for both marijuana and shabu in a drug test taken a few hours after he and his companion were arrested. But the same chemistry report showed his companion positive for the use of marijuana.

Case status: The court is still hearing the defense witnesses. The next hearing is set on May 3. Delos Santos is still at large.

Armin P. Adina, PDI Research Department

Meralco has made full public disclosures

THIS refers to your editorial of April 13, 2002, titled "In the dark" which criticized Meralco very unfairly for "failing miserably in the area of full public disclosure" and for "not having the public good in mind when it filed its March 11 petition...."

Please allow us to take this opportunity to explain to you and the public our side on the many issues your editorial raised. At the outset, we wish to assure the public that Meralco, now on its 99th year as a public utility company and one of the most highly regarded institutions in Philippine and Asian business, will continue to serve the public and conduct its business with integrity.

You will recall that when Meralco was running its own power plants, it happily charged one of the lowest rates in Asia. Today, as an electricity distributor, it buys all its power needs from outside generators—the bulk from one supplier: the National Power Corp. When Meralco decided to buy part of its power needs from other independent power producers (IPPs), whom the government encouraged to enter power generation, our objective was to lower the cost of electricity by introducing competition to the Napocor. Our contracts with these IPPs have all been approved by the Energy Regulatory Board. We believe that they are reasonable contracts and can provide lower electricity rates for our customers because their selling prices to us are lower than those of the Napocor.

We reject the penalties that the Napocor is trying to impose on us primarily because it is the Napocor which is responsible for the transmission constraint that prevents the IPPs from running at higher levels. Besides, these penalties will just be reflected in the cost of the power purchased from the Napocor which are passed on to customers, placing an unjust burden on them. We have stood firm on this precisely because it is in the best interest of the public.

Meralco, along with 138 other utilities, filed a petition for unbundling last Dec. 26, 2001, in compliance with the EIRA. We strictly followed the uniform filing requirements (UFR) issued by the Energy Regulatory Commission last Oct. 30, 2001. If, as a consequence of our adherence to the UFR, an unacceptably high return on rate base (RORB) emerges, that was not the intent of our petition. The ERC, of course, is not expected to automatically approve the petitions of the 139 utilities. The UFR, we understand, was on the advice of professional consultants and was probably intended to gather essential data on the 139 utilities which the ERC needed to make sound decisions.

Our original petition for a 30-centavo increase in April 2000 which remains pending at the ERC, was a petition which was warranted by conditions existing as early as 1998 but we held off until it became absolutely necessary. This, too, we did in the best interest of the public and at the expense of our stakeholders.

We realize that rate increases are always unwelcome to consumers, especially in times of economic hardship. But the 30-centavo increase that we asked for was arrived at after careful study and is more than fair compared to increases in the prices of other consumer items such as fuel, which has gone up several times in the last few months alone. The last time Meralco had a rate increase was in 1994.

Furthermore, please allow us to point out that even our original proposed rate structure which would have affected our residential consumers more, percentage-wise, was designed not to arbitrarily punish them or to protect the industrial sector, but to take into account that industrial customers are already subsidizing not just Meralco's residential customers but the entire country. And yet when we reconsidered and decided to cushion the impact on residential customers, the bulk of our customer base, we were severely criticized even by you.

We reiterate that we have made full public disclosure through submission of all data required by the ERC (and the then ERB) which has conducted the necessary public hearings. We therefore feel it is quite harsh for you to declare that "not a single centavo for a power rate increase is rightfully deserved."

We also wish to appeal to you and to the public not to forget that the quality service Meralco is able to provide now cannot be sustained indefinitely. Transmission and distribution lines, substations, transformers, trucks, test equipment and many other technical and human resources involved in operating a public utility efficiently have to be constantly upgraded or they will slowly deteriorate. So in the long run, it is **not** in the public interest to deny Meralco a just rate increase that is long overdue.

In closing, let me state that Meralco is constantly striving for excellence in corporate governance including open communication lines with its customers and the public.

—JESUS P. FRANCISCO, president, Meralco, Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City

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Labor Day is a class holiday

ON MAY 1, the 100th anniversary of the observance of Labor Day in our country, the central challenge confronting the Filipino workers is globalization.

Through import liberalization, globalization has destroyed millions of industries and jobs here, especially the unionized ones in manufacturing, mining and agriculture since 1995. The ruinous process is still on; in fact, it is mounting, with the weakened remaining industries and jobs faced with complete decimation. Colgate-Palmolive, Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer, Union Carbide, Novartis, Philips Electrical etc. stopped manufacturing in 1988 and became mere traders because of import liberalization. Rubberworld, Aries Philippines, 43 textile companies, etc. closed because of import liberalization.

Through deregulation, globalization has been disarming our government, removing its powers to protect the people from the abuses of a cartelized market. Energy, water, power, banking and telecommunications have been deregulated. In these strategic industries, the government has been rendered impotent and the sovereign people are now at the mercy of the merciless market. Through privatization, globalization has been robbing the Filipino nation of its patrimony. It has already lost Petron, Fort Bonifacio, Manila Bay, Pasar, Nawasa and the latest, Napocor. While losing these strategic assets, the nation's debts, both domestic and foreign, have been ballooning into trillions of pesos. Only the engineers of privatization have become filthy rich.

Through the false application of level playing field as a principle of international trade, globalization has been exposing our industries and jobs to unfair foreign competition. For instance, our unionized industries and jobs have been destroyed by the competition of imported non-union goods from China, Taiwan, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, etc.

It is true that the nation as a whole, not the workers alone is plagued by globalization. But the Filipino workers are globalization's most numerous victims and the only ones who, as a class, can stand up to globalization through the conversion of their number into power.

Labor Day is a class holiday—the only day in the Gregorian calendar reserved for observance by the working class. At present, this class, impoverished, downtrodden and exploited, is offered the historic opportunity to lead the nation in the struggle to liberate it from globalization's stranglehold, as the workers of Italy and Germany (the American workers are not far behind) have begun doing in their countries.

—AMADO GAT INCIONG, Inciong and Associates, Unit 301, Union Square Condominium, 145, 15th Ave., Cubao, Quezon City

Making RA 9003 work is our part

THIS is regarding Sylvia Mayuga's commentary in the INQUIRER last April 14, titled "Heart cry to Loren."

I filed Senate Bill No. 1269, my version of the solid waste management policy framework, in the 11th Congress because of my utmost concern for the garbage crisis which had beset Metro Manila and other highly urbanized areas in the country. Realizing the imminent threat this grave problem posed, and because I was aware that the measure had remained unacted upon in the previous congresses, I prioritized it for consideration when I was given the opportunity to serve as chair of the Senate committee on environment in February 1999. We conducted several public hearings and a number of technical working group meetings to thresh out the various concerns arising from the stakeholders of this piece of legislation.

Despite our efforts, it had to take the Payatas tragedy later that year before all other concerned agencies lent their full support for the immediate enactment of the measure. The loss of lives and property in that tragedy became the driving force behind our concerted effort to facilitate the passage of the measure. Different non-government agencies lobbied for its passage, while I closely consulted with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, through the Environment Management Bureau, regarding the contentious issues of the measure. As sponsor of the measure, I struggled through months of debate and deliberation before it was finally passed on third reading.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo signed Republic Act 9003 into law in January 2001, the first measure enacted right after she was installed as President. But because of the tedious process of consultations and working visits to different parts of the country to ensure that the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) would be formed in accordance with the mandate of the law, it took the DENR a long time before the IRR was finally crafted and finalized.

As a public servant, I can only do so much to motivate and educate the public on the need for a solid waste management law. Needless to say, it would take more than a piece of legislation to immediately solve our garbage crisis. The executive, through the DENR and Metro Manila Development Authority, now has to fulfill its task as implementing agencies of the law. Finally, it takes discipline within each citizen or individual to practice what the law calls for such as segregation at source, composting, recycling, etc.

Indeed, to find a solution to the problem of waste management not only in Metro Manila is too colossal a task. By calling our attention to the non-implementation of RA 9003, I sincerely hope that Ms Mayuga has likewise elicited the public's commitment to do their share in this endeavor.

Thank you for the opportunity to clarify some of the issues Ms Mayuga raised in her commentary.

—SEN. LOREN LEGARDA-LEVISTE, 6/F Senate of the Philippines, GSIS Bldg., Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

In support of a casino university

I PROBABLY write on behalf of many overseas Filipinos when I say that we strongly support the plan of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) to establish a Casino University.

The proposed university will help solve the unemployment problem in the Philippines. And many overseas companies want to employ Filipinos because they are honest, always ready to work overtime and they speak good English. So, the proposed university should include good English in its curriculum.

The proposed school should also teach students to work as cashiers.

—OSCAR R. LANDICHO, 8 Haddon Crescent, Revesby, NSW 2212 Sydney, Australia

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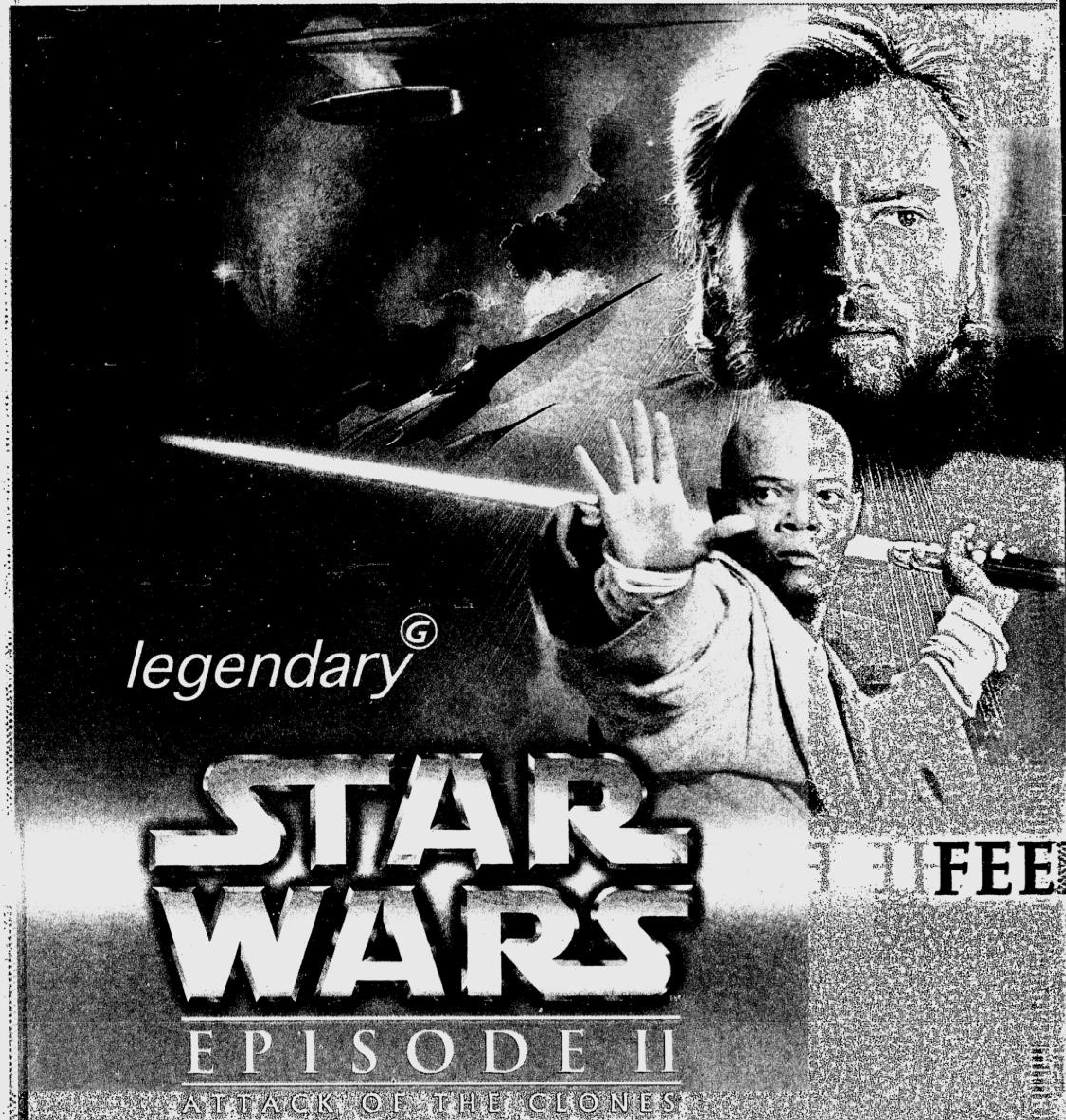
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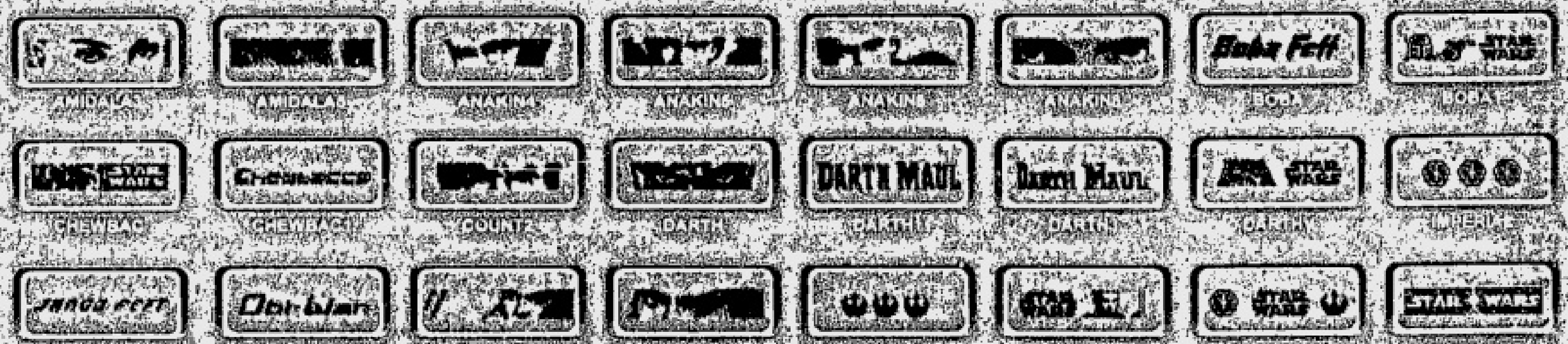
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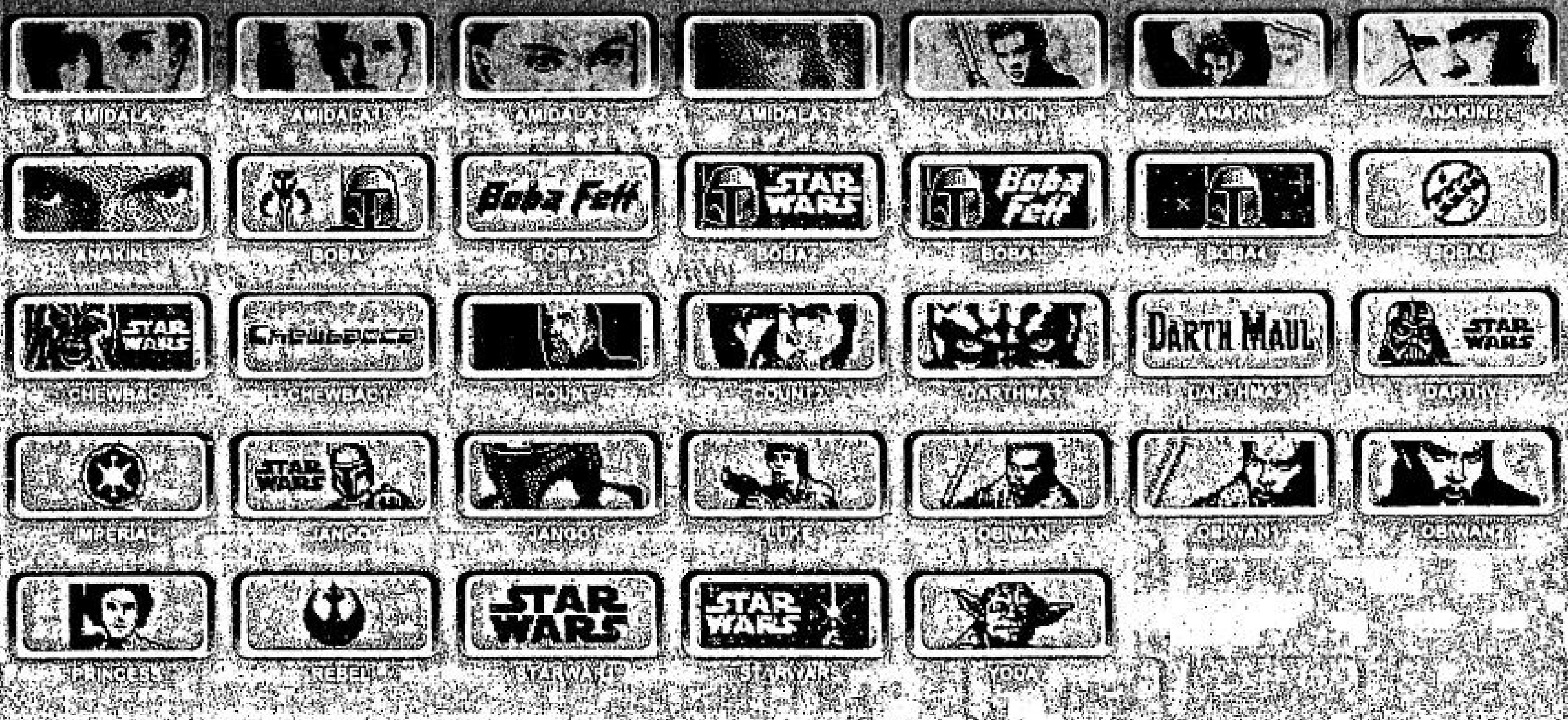
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Plan to lift Arafat siege takes shape

RAMALLAH, West Bank—US and British security experts met with Palestinian officials here Monday in a first step toward freeing Yasser Arafat from his Israeli-besieged headquarters in Ramallah.

But while a US-brokered deal to lift the West Bank siege improved prospects for an easing of tensions, Israeli troops seized the city of Hebron in an operation that left eight Palestinians dead, 20 wounded and 17 under arrest.

Israel also refused to cede ground in its wrangling with the United Nations over the arrival of a fact-finding team into the heavy battle in Jenin refugee camp earlier this month.

In Bethlehem, an Israeli sniper shot dead a Palestinian holed up inside the Church of the Nativity as the four-week-old Israeli standoff at one of Christianity's holiest sites continued with no sign of a settlement.

Palestinian negotiators said drawn-out talks were on hold until Israeli snipers held fire and the Army allowed food in to the more than 200 people, mostly gunmen, inside the church that marks the birthplace of Jesus Christ.

President George W. Bush proposed the plan to release Arafat from his battered Ramallah headquarters by placing six wanted Palestinians sheltered with him in the custody of US or British guards.

The Israeli Cabinet, under heavy pressure from the Americans, voted at a marathon meeting Sunday to approve the plan.

Palestinian officials met with US and British security experts to discuss the plan to lift the siege on Arafat's compound, a Palestinian security official said, adding that they were to convene again on Tuesday.

Information minister Yasser Abed Rabbo and Mohammed Rashid, Arafat's economic adviser, represented the Palestinians in the meeting with security experts from the British and US consulates in Jerusalem, the source said.

The aim was to discuss the technical details of transferring the wanted Palestinians to a jail in the West Bank town of Jericho where they will be placed under international guard.

The White House, meanwhile, said the six Palestinians would be in custody of international guards in Jericho "within a day or two."

And officials in London said a three-member British advance party had left for the Middle East. Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said the team would ensure conditions were safe for the US and British supervisory wardens.

Israeli Defense Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer told Israel's state radio that the arrangements would be completed "in the coming days" and "at that moment, Arafat can go wherever he wants."

The deal to end Arafat's isolation was hailed as a potential breakthrough in efforts to restart talks on ending the 19-month-old Israeli-Palestinian conflict that has claimed more than 2,000 lives. ***AFP***

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3. Sa bawat transaksiyon sa Western Union, ang ahente ng Western Union ay didikitan ng sticker ang inyong passbook, isang sticker bawat transaksiyon.
4. Kapag nakumpleto na ang certificate na mayroong tatlong (3) sticker, isulat ang pangalan, tirahan, telephone number at pagkatapos ay pirmahan ang certificate.**
5. Ihulog ang mga certificate sa Western Union collection box.
6. Ang sticker ay hindi maaaring ibigay o ilipat sa iba. Ang ahente ay hindi maaaring tumanggap ng tatlong (3) certificate na mayroong isang (1) sticker bawat isa.
7. Ang Western Union ay walang pananagutan sa mga nawala o ninakaw na passbooks.
8. Deadline sa pagsumite ng mga entries:**
   Ang mga entries ay dapat matanggap sa ganap na ika-12 ng tanghali ng March 11, 2002 para sa March 18, 2002 draw. Para sa June 11, 2002 draw, dapat matanggap ang mga entries sa ganap na ika-12 ng tanghali ng May 31, 2002.**
9. Ang mga schedule ng draws:
   Ikatlong draw:
   March18, 2002
   Ikaapat na draw:
   June 11, 2002
   Lugar kung saan gaganapin ang Grand Draw: DDB Phils. Officer, 11/F JMT Corporate Condominium, ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.
   Oras ng Draw: Ika-12 ng tanghali
10. Ang mananalo sa ikatlong draw sa March 18, 2002 ang makatatanggap ng P750,000.00 kasama ang buwis. Ang mananalo ng Grand Draw sa June 11, 2002 ay makatatanggap ng bahay at lupa na may halagang P1,120,000.00 kasama ang buwis o kaya'y halagang katumbas nito.**
11. Ang mga hindi mananalo sa unang draw ay kasali pa rin sa mga susunod na draw.
12. Ang mananalo ay aabisuhan sa loob ng 48 na oras tungkol sa kanilang pinalalunan at ito ay ipapatalastas sa print advertisement at sa pamamagitan ng registered mail.
13. Kung sakaling di sumagot o kinuha ang napanalunang premyo sa loob ng 60 araw mula sa pagkaabiso na siya ay nanalo, ito ay mamawalang saysay na may aprobal ng DTI at muling pipili ng panibagong magwawagi.
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US set to take out reservists, guardsmen

WASHINGTON—The Bush administration plans a major reduction in the number of reservists and national guard troops on active duty despite a warning from Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld that forces were stretched thin, according to officials and internal documents.

The administration's plan, outlined in a defense department memo dated March 16 and obtained by Reuters on Monday, calls for demobilizing 14,500 reservists and guard members by June 30, bringing the number on active duty to 68,000 from a post-Sept. 11 peak of more than 82,500.

Democrats accused the White House budget office of undercutting the defense department at a time when more active reservists and guardsmen are needed to help in the hunt for suspected terrorists in Afghanistan and to protect key installations in the United States and abroad from attack.

The defense department refused to comment, but the White House budget officials defended the reductions as part of President George W. Bush's emergency funding request for the military and homeland security.

The White House officials asserted that fewer reservists and guardsmen would be needed to defend many US posts and bases. They said businesses had also pressed for the demobilization, arguing they needed to have their workers back on the job.

The reductions come in spite of a March 13 memo from Rumsfeld warning that US forces were already stretched "past the point where the department can, without an unbelievably compelling reason, make any additional commitments."

"Quite apart from making any additional commitments, it is time that we begin to aggressively reduce our current commitments," Rumsfeld wrote.

"I want everyone involved to begin to pull back personnel from activities and locations where they can be spared, so we can ease the pressure on the system," he added in the internal memo, addressed to the Deputy Defense Secretary, Paul Wolfowitz, and the chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Richard Myers, among others.

US commanders have also warned in recent weeks that the military would be without adequate forces in the Pacific and European regions if resources continue to be diverted to Afghanistan and if the United States strikes Iraq. ***Reuters***

Aussie doctors cancel services in insurer mess

CANBERRA—Doctors across Australia were canceling private services in high-risk areas like baby delivery and brain surgery on Tuesday after the collapse of the nation's largest medical insurer put them at risk of huge claims.

Some surgeons in the states of Queensland and New South Wales, home to half of Australia's 20 million people, canceled non-urgent surgery after losing iron-clad cover against surging negligence claims in Australia which mirror a global trend.

These multimillion-dollar claims—such as a record payment last year of A$14 million (US$7.6 million) to a cerebral palsy victim of a botched forceps delivery—are blamed for the fall of insurance provider United Medical Protection (UMP).

UMP, which provided cover for 32,000 or 60 percent of Australia's doctors, said on Monday it was applying for a provisional liquidator because it was unable to meet massive outstanding claims.

"Doctors can't work like this. Without full insurance, it's like driving a car without a seat belt. It's suicide," Canberra obstetrician and gynecologist Dr. Andrew Foote said.

"People's willingness for litigation has increased exponentially in recent years with no laws to rein in litigation lawyers. The unlimited rights to sue anybody for any amount has got to be stopped or a 'no faults' system imposed." ***Reuters***

Suu Kyi may be freed under deal

RANGOON—Military-ruled Burma was abuzz with speculation on Tuesday that pro-democracy opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi was set to be freed after 18 months in house arrest following a deal with the ruling junta.

The release of the 56-year-old Suu Kyi, winner of the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize, is one of the top demands of the international community. She has been kept confined to her lakeside Rangoon residence, with her telephone line cut, since September 2000.

A source close to the ruling junta said the government was set to announce the release of Suu Kyi and a deal under which she would cooperate with the junta in administering humanitarian work in fields such as health and education.

"It will be more than the release of Aung San Suu Kyi and some other political prisoners. It will be a breakthrough in Burma politics," the source said.

Razali Ismail, the United Nations special envoy to Burma, ended a four-day visit to the country on Friday saying he expected a breakthrough soon in the peace process.

Burma Labor Minister Tin Win told a news conference at the weekend that the government would make a major announcement "in a few days." Asked what progress had been achieved in the talks, he said: "Just wait and see."

Witnesses said a team of municipal workers were cleaning the road outside Suu Kyi's residence on Tuesday morning.

Diplomats in Rangoon confirmed speculation was rife that Suu Kyi would be freed, but pointed out that similar rumors have circulated before.

"Certainly the government has to announce something," one Western diplomat said. "It's hard to see how it could fail to include Suu's release. But we've been disappointed before."

Suu Kyi, the charismatic daughter of assassinated independence hero Aung San, was held under house arrest from 1989 to 1995. She was placed back under house arrest in 2000 after she embarrassed the government with several high-profile attempts to challenge travel restrictions that confined her to Rangoon.

Her release in 1995 did not herald any political change.

But analysts said if she has indeed agreed to limited cooperation with the ruling junta, this would be a major shift in her stance. Previously she has refused all overtures from the military to work with them.

Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) won Burma's last election in 1990 by a landslide, but the military government refused to hand over power. Burma has faced international isolation and economic sanctions over its human rights record and its treatment of Suu Kyi and the NLD. ***Reuters***

REUTERS

CLOSER LOOK

Jubilant astronomers unveiled April 30 humankind's most spectacular views of the universe as captured by the Nasa Hubble Space Telescope's new Advanced Camera for Surveys (ACS). The Tadpole Galaxy, UGC 10214 is pictured in this Nasa handout photo.

US eyes ways to keep long-term military presence in C. Asia

WASHINGTON—The Pentagon is considering ways to keep a military "footprint" in Central Asia after US forces leave Afghanistan, but it has no plan to establish permanent military bases, officials say.

Before the United States launched the war in Afghanistan it had no forces based in Central Asia.

Now it has thousands in Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Afghanistan—infantry, special operations air and ground troops, military police and intelligence analysts, along with fighter aircraft, refueling and cargo planes, and reconnaissance and surveillance aircraft.

A less conspicuous toehold could be kept beyond the current war by, for example, working out long-term agreements with countries like Kazakhstan to allow access by the US military to some of their airfields or to periodically train with Kazakh forces, officials said Monday.

Another possibility is agreements that permit the US military to store equipment for use in the event of a regional crisis. The Pentagon has had such deals with Persian Gulf countries for years.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Pentagon, with input from the state department and other agencies, is drawing up a plan for a long-term military "footprint" in Central Asia. The plan has not yet been presented to Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld.

Rumsfeld toured Central Asia last week and met with the leaders of Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan—each a former republic of the Soviet Union—as well as Afghanistan.

In comments to reporters traveling with him, Rumsfeld alluded to possibilities for the future.

"Our basic interest is to have the ability to go into a country and have a relationship and have understandings about our ability to land or overfly and to do things that are of mutual benefit to each of us," he said. "But we don't have any particular plans for permanent bases."

When asked by US soldiers in Kyrgyzstan how long they would be there, Rumsfeld gave his stock reply: As long as it takes to finish off al-Qaida terrorists and the radical Taliban militia.

Even before the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, the Pentagon was quietly working with Central Asian nations to establish closer ties, in many cases through partnership with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Afghanistan and terrorism aside, the region is of strategic importance to the United States for geopolitical reasons, including its vast energy resources and historic links to Russia. ***AP***

Jakarta nixes martial law for Maluku islands

JAKARTA—The government on Tuesday ordered authorities in Indonesia's Maluku province to arrest the masterminds behind fresh religious violence, but said martial law was not yet needed.

Security Minister Bambang Susilo Yudhoyono said there was "still a chance" that the regional administration could bring peace to the archipelago, which has seen three years of religious violence.

"We are not yet going to impose martial law," he told reporters.

On Sunday, masked assailants armed with grenades and automatic weapons stormed a Christian village on the outskirts of the provincial capital, Ambon, killing 12 people, including a 6-month-old baby.

The raid, which followed three days of unrest, undermined a peace deal signed in February between Muslims and Christians intended to stop the bloodshed. Up to 9,000 people have been killed.

"The violence must be stopped. Whatever happens, the perpetrators and the provocateurs must be arrested," Yudhoyono said. "The government has instructed it."

Ambon, which since the conflict has been divided into Christian and Muslims sections, was quiet on Tuesday, though shops and businesses were open as usual.

Christian leaders in the province, 2,600 km east of Jakarta, have blamed Laskar Jihad, a paramilitary Muslim group, for the latest violence.

The group, which arrived from Indonesia's main island of Java midway through the conflict, rejects the peace deal and is refusing to hand over its weapons.

Yudhoyono refused to say whether Laskar Jihad, which enjoys high-level support both locally and nationally, would be expelled from Maluku as part of the security measures.

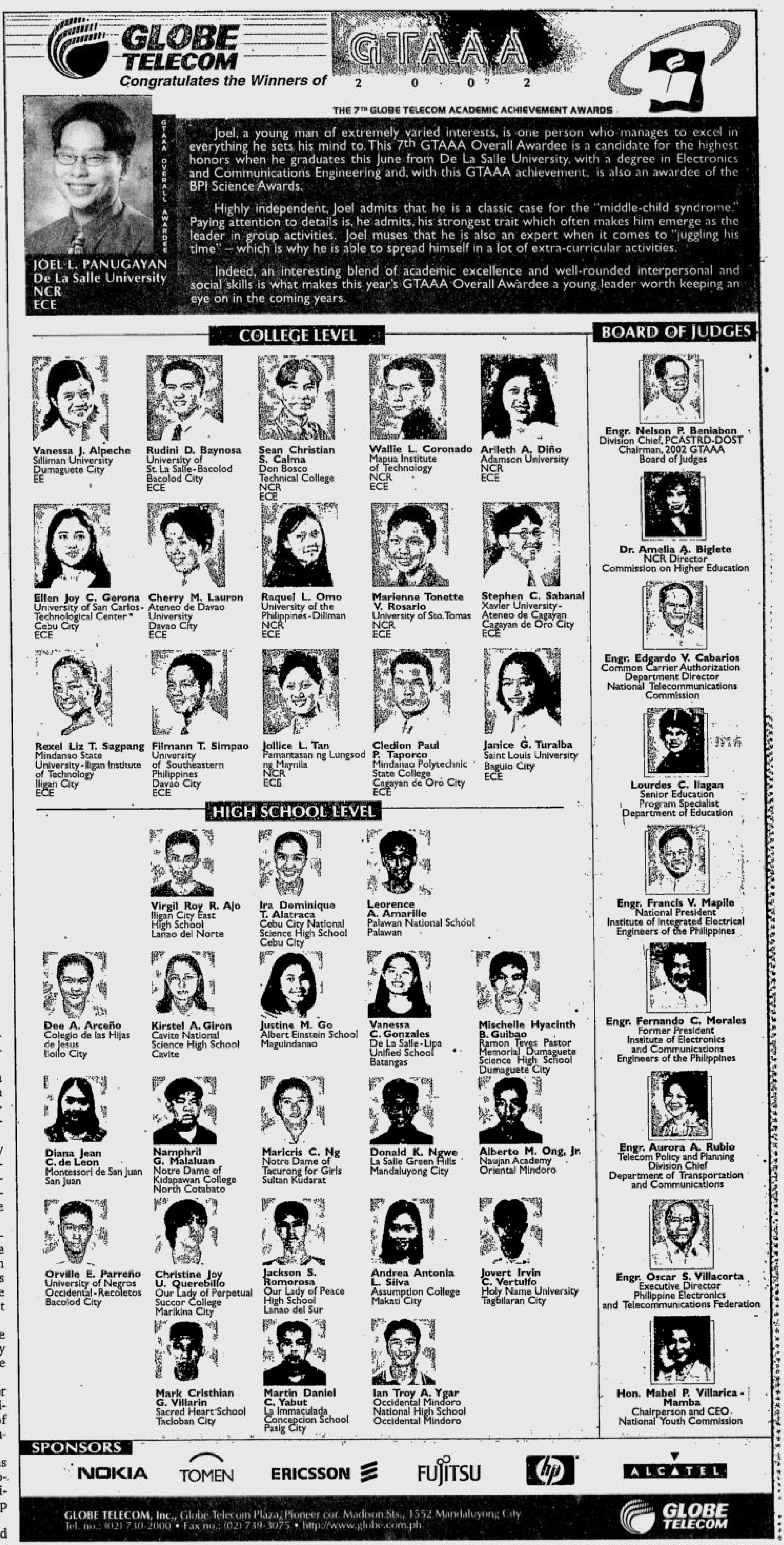
On Monday, Indonesia's military said it would welcome the imposition of martial law, which would give local commanders sweeping powers, including the right to detain people for at least 50 days without trial.

Rights groups criticized the suggestion, saying greater army involvement would add to the problems in Maluku.

The military has a reputation for brutality, corruption and ill-discipline and has been accused of abuses in other trouble spots in Indonesia.

Maluku, which was known as the Spice Islands under Dutch colonial rule, is currently under civilian emergency rule, one step lower than martial law.

Analysts say that political and military ambitions may be fueling the current flareup. ***AP***



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Joel, a young man of extremely varied interests, is one person who manages to excel in everything he sets his mind to. This 7th GTAAA Overall Awardee is a candidate for the highest honors when he graduates this June from De La Salle University, with a degree in Electronics and Communications Engineering and, with this GTAAA achievement, is also an awardee of the BPI Science Awards.

Highly independent, Joel admits that he is a classic case for the "middle-child syndrome." Paying attention to details is, he admits, his strongest trait which often makes him emerge as the leader in group activities. Joel muses that he is also an expert when it comes to "juggling his time" – which is why he is able to spread himself in a lot of extra-curricular activities.

Indeed, an interesting blend of academic excellence and well-rounded interpersonal and social skills is what makes this year's GTAAA Overall Awardee a young leader worth keeping an eye on in the coming years.

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Surigao farmers decry militia harassment

LIANGA, Surigao del Sur—Members of the Bad-as Integrated Stewardship Development Cooperative (Bisdeco), a farmers group engaged in an Agro-Forestry Project here, condemned the harassment allegedly committed by militiamen under the Army's 28th Infantry Battalion (IB) against its members.

In a petition, the farmers also urged Mayor Leonor Sarmen and the Sangguniang Bayan (SB), to prevent the militiamen, led by the Evangelio brothers, from entering Barangay Manyayay here.

"If you won't stop them from coming to our barangay, our livelihood will be affected since we are now afraid to go to our farmlands," the petitioners said on April 21.

A copy of the petition was furnished the INQUIRER.

Pordel Salcedo, a village official and member of the cooperative's board of directors, told members of the municipal council that he was with the farmers, who were busy planting fruit seedlings on April 20 when the militiamen arrived.

They were immediately accused of being New People's Army sympathizers and were held at gunpoint.

BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

TO the Army, militiamen like Efren Duyan of Davao City are assets, but to militant groups, they're human rights violators.

One of the militiamen allegedly even threatened to harm them.

"We will make you an example because you are NPA supporters," Salcedo quoted the militiaman as saying.

Salcedo said he was able to prevent bloodshed by identifying himself as a member of the barangay council. ***Ma. Kristina Cassion, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Travel ban to Davao lifted

DAVAO CITY—Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs last week lifted the travel ban to this city, paving the way for the scheduled "sentimental journey" of some 2,000 Japanese nationals next month.

Acting Mayor Luis Bonguyan said he received the advisory from Consul Hiroyoshi Suwa in a meeting yesterday morning.

But Bonguyan said the visiting Japanese are still advised to exercise caution.

Bonguyan said the lifting of the ban applies only to Davao City and not the entire Mindanao.

He said the recent award given to the city as the country's Most Competitive City by the Asian Institute of Management and the Department of Trade and Industry, was a factor in the lifting of the ban.

In a press statement from the Consular Office of Japan in Davao, the travel advisory only lowered the level of warning from Level Two, which advises Japanese nationals to postpone their visit since Sept. 17, 2001.

Roger Layson, spokesperson of the Department of Tourism (DOT) in Southern Mindanao, said Level One advises Japanese nationals to exercise caution in visiting Davao City and all areas in Luzon and Visayas.

Layson said the new travel advisory for Davao City would augur well for the city's tourism and trading industries despite the fact that Japan is the city's top market for tourism and trade.

Japan is Southern Mindanao's traditional market for tuna and banana.

A Level One advisory means Japanese travelers should be wary of moving around in Mindanao or any part of the Philippines and take all precautions.

A Level Two advisory means Japanese travelers should evaluate carefully the security situation in a particular area before proceeding with their trip.

The travel ban is still up in Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Lanao del Norte, North cotabato, Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-tawi and areas surrounding Zamboanga City and all areas connecting Sirawai, Zamboanga del Norte and Tigbao, Zamboanga del Sur.

If not lifted, Japan's travel advisory against visiting the Philippines will hamper the yearly "sentimental journey" of some 2,000 Japanese nationals to Mindanao's "Little Tokyo" in June.

The 2,000 Japanese nationals, the biggest delegation in five years, will commemorate the Japanese occupation of the Philippines during World War II.

The sentimental journey is a yearly visit of Japanese nationals to trace the roots of their relatives, who have chosen to stay in the Philippines after World War II.

It is also time for them to visit the shrine of their dead relatives in Mintal, Tugbok District, once known as Davao's "Little Tokyo."

Tugbok had the biggest Japanese population during the occupation. It was once occupied by Japanese engaged in abaca planting. ***Ayan Mellejor and Joel Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

164 families lose homes in San Carlos City fire

FIRE swept through a neighborhood in San Carlos City late Monday, destroying or damaging at least a hundred homes.

About 10 hours later, another fire broke out at a building near the Bacolod City Hall, forcing the evacuation of pieces of equipment and employees.

Investigators estimated the damage caused by the San Carlos City fire to be worth at least P4 million.

The fire that gutted the fourth and fifth floors of the Po Marketing Enterprise Building on Araneta Street in Bacolod City destroyed at least P10 million worth of pieces of property, according to firefighters.

The two-hour fire in Barangay 6, San Carlos City on Monday night displaced at least 164 families or 800 persons, according to the Department of Social Welfare and Development in the city.

Police investigators said the fire started at 11 p.m. Monday at the house of a certain Jose Cantiga Sr. in Barangay 6.

Supt. Ricardo de la Paz, police chief of San Carlos City, said an unattended kerosene lamp set off the fire, burning flammable materials in the house of Cantiga. ***Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau***

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Napocor employees ask Gloria to stop new retrenchment

BAGUIO CITY—Employees of the debt-ridden National Power Corp. are asking President Macapagal-Arroyo to shield their ranks from another round of retrenchments because of a supposed company plan to close all Napocor regional offices to salvage the firm's top management positions.

The scheduled retrenchment of 30 percent of the firm's provincial work force was leaked to the Napocor union on April 18, a year after Napocor reduced its manpower from 12,000 to 8,600 under a reorganization scheme.

The reorganization was designed to adapt the firm to the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira) or Republic Act 9136.

The union drafted a letter of protest against the new Napocor measure on Tuesday, following a general assembly here on Monday.

"Before (Ms Macapagal) addresses power rate cuts brought about by her predecessors' policy (of opening up the country to independent power producers or IPPs), she must look at how a privatized power industry is now affecting us," said Jimmy Salman, president of the Napocor Employees and Workers Union (Newu) in Northern Luzon.

Ms Macapagal is expected to announce today, Labor Day, several Malacañang measures that would reduce the rate of household electricity, and prevent a 33-percent increase in power rates that was spawned by a power purchase adjustment (PPA) cost being collected for Napocor by local electric distributors.

More than half of the PPA represents Napocor power purchases from IPP private plants.

According to documents obtained by the INQUIRER, the Napocor board of directors scrapped on April 11 six subsidiary Generation Companies (Gencos), which clustered together about 40 Napocor plants that are up for sale under Epira's privatization schedules.

Each of the Genco clusters are a mixed composition of hydroelectric power plants, geothermal plants and coal-fired facilities, which were packaged by former Napocor president Federico Puno for auction to private investors.

Salman said close to 3,000 Napocor employees were retired as a result of this reorganization. He also said 1,000 more employees are scheduled for retirement because of the reorganization measure. ***Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

3 Bolinao teenagers die after eating 'butete' eggs

DAGUPAN CITY—Three teenagers from Bolinao town died on Saturday after eating colet (*Acanthora spinosa*), a kind of seaweeds where puffer fish (*butete*) lays eggs, a belated report said.

Butete is poisonous when not prepared properly.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development identified the fatalities as Boyet Carassiosa, 19; Romy Carolino, 18; and Jose Carassiosa, 15; all from Lucero Village on Santiago Island in Bolinao.

Carolino and Boyet Carassiosa were taken to the Western Pangasinan Provincial Hospital in Alaminos City on Saturday afternoon but were discharged later in the day.

Glorioso Maramba, hospital chief, said the victims were discharged "against medical advice" and reportedly died at home.

He said the teenagers were in serious condition when they were admitted at the hospital. "Probably the poison has been absorbed by their bodies," he said.

Jose Carassiosa died on Monday.

On Tuesday, Bolinao Mayor Jesus Celeste, accompanied by a team from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, went to the area where the seaweeds were gathered to find out what could have caused the poisoning.

Celeste said there had been cases of death because of *butete* poisoning in the past years.

Nestor Domenden, BFAR regional director, said they have to determine if the eggs of puffer fish are also poisonous.

"We have to get samples of the seaweeds and the puffer fish' eggs to find out what could have caused the poisoning," he said.

Butete is a greenish-brown fish whose body bulges like a ball when irritated. It is known to be poisonous especially when the entrails are not removed and the fish is not thoroughly washed and cooked. ***Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

2 Pampanga mayors face suspension, graft probe

By Jun Malig
PDI Central Luzon Desk

ANGELES CITY—The special prosecutor of the Office of the Ombudsman has filed a motion before the Sandiganbayan urging the suspension of the mayors of this city and Mabalacat town in connection with the alleged illegal use of P4.8 million in public funds for Mt. Pinatubo victims in 1996.

In a motion filed last Friday, Joselito Ferrer, Ombudsman prosecutor, asked the Sandiganbayan's third division to suspend Angeles City Mayor Carmelo Lazatin and Mabalacat Mayor Marino Morales in accordance with Section 13 of Republic Act 3019 (Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act). The law states that any incumbent public officer covered by criminal prosecution involving fraud in government or public funds or property shall be suspended from office.

Also recommended for suspension are Teodoro David, municipal accountant, and Angelito Pelayo, municipal treasurer, both of Mabalacat.

The Sandiganbayan is expected to act on Ferrer's motion during its hearing on May 16.

Lazatin, Morales and their two co-respondents denied the accusations.

On May 29, 2000, the Ombudsman's evaluation and preliminary investigation bureau (EPIB) recommended the filing of 14 counts of malversation of public funds and violation of RA 3019 against each of the four officials.

The EPIB, in its recommendation, said the Department of Budget and Management released on Oct. 31, 1996 P12.8 million from the countrywide development fund (CDF) of Lazatin, then Pampanga representative, to the local government of Mabalacat for projects and programs for Mt. Pinatubo victims.

The EPIB said Lazatin was "both the proponent and implementor" of projects worth P4.8 million out of the total P12.8 million from his CDF.

It said Lazatin's act was "violative of the Supreme Court ruling that legislators can only propose projects to be funded from their CDF but they cannot implement the same."

The agency said vouchers and supporting papers on the disbursements were signed by Lazatin as the disbursing officer and 18 checks for P4.8 million were directly paid to him as a claimant.

The EPIB added that "with the help" of his co-respondents, Lazatin was able to convert his CDF into cash. Such an act, it said, constitutes illegal use of public funds.

But Lazatin, Morales and their two co-respondents said they did not benefit from the application of the CDF and that the fund involved in the case was actually disbursed and used for the purpose for which they were intended.

They said Lazatin was only the proponent, and not the implementor, of the projects because it was the municipality of Mabalacat that actually implemented them.

AFP confirms 2 traders kidnapped

COTABATO CITY—The military said the two businessmen from Tacurong City who have been reported missing since last week were abducted by suspected members of the Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom group operating in Central Mindanao.

But anti-kidnapping Task Group Cotabato (TGC) chief Lt. Col. Essel Soriano has yet to verify reports that the kidnappers of Bernardo Noel and his business partner Pastor Allado, a former bank manager, were demanding P20 million in exchange for their liberty.

"The report (of the P20 million ransom) has not yet reached us, but we are verifying this," Soriano told radio station dxMY.

He said a number of witnesses informed the task force that they saw four unidentified men, one of them carrying a bulky paper bag believed to contain bundles of money, after they abandoned a Nissan pickup van in a housing subdivision in Sarilikha Village in Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao on April 23.

Residents immediately notified authorities of the presence of the abandoned vehicle with plate number UJJ-173 parked in Block 5, inside the housing project of the Southern Philippines Development Authority (SPDA).

Earlier reports from Tacurong City disclosed that the two missing traders were looking for sources of nickel for their new trading venture when they disappeared.

Their disappearance came shortly after task force operatives arrested Ibrahim Sacandal alias engineer Jun Sarat, a suspected Pentagon member, in a raid on a house in Barangay Simuay in Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao.

Regional Trial Court Judge Emmanuel Badoy said Sacandal was wanted for the abduction of businessman Vicente Yu on Sept. 15, 2001 in Sultan Kudarat town.

Military and police intelligence sources said Sacandal was responsible for organizing the Pentagon.

Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko, 6th Infantry Division chief, has directed all military units in South-Central Mindanao to help police authorities search for the two businessmen. ***Charlie Señase and Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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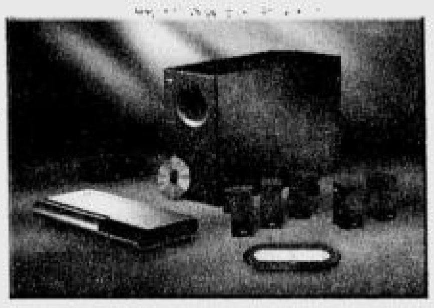
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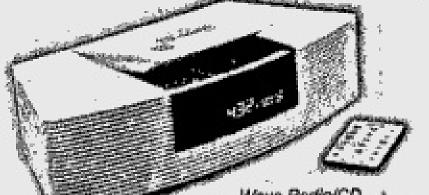
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Solon asks Payumo to stop car imports

REP. PROSPERO Nograles has appealed to Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) Chair Felicito Payumo to help stop the importation of used right-hand-drive vehicles, which are being sold through auction in various parts of the country.

Nograles, a member of the House Committee on Transportation and Communication, said in a statement that the economic benefit that the country gets from these importers is small compared to the potential damage that they can cause to legitimate investors and motorists.

"Tong is a dear friend but I simply cannot agree with his bias for these importers who are not supposed to be in Subic in the first place," Nograles said.

At the same time, Nograles asked Land Transportation Office (LTO) chief Roberto Lastimoso to temporarily suspend the registration of all vehicles imported through the Subic Freeport, particularly those that are being sold by auctioneers.

All auctions should be also halted pending the result of the ongoing investigation by a task force created by Trade Secretary Mar Roxas.

Nograles said he is fully behind the move of Roxas to stop the importation of used vehicles through Subic because it is not healthy for the economy in the long term.

"I fully agree with Mar Roxas that the importation and sale of these used vehicles is not only patently illegal but it could also dampen our effort to stimulate the entry of investors who would put up their manufacturing plants here in the Philippines," Nograles said.

Lina urges Comelec chair to step into mayoral row

LOCAL Government Secretary Jose Lina Jr. appealed to Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo to finally rule on the mayoral dispute in Baliuag, Bulacan to bring back normalcy to the town.

In a statement, Lina said there was a need to resolve the 10-day-old conflict soon to restore the delivery of basic services to the people of the town.

Earlier the Mayors' League of Bulacan assailed Jose Rufino, presidential liaison for political affairs, for distributing a letter with a presidential logo and seal of the Office of the President congratulating Romeo Estrêlla, who was appointed by a local court as mayor over incumbent Mayor Rolando Salvador.

The Bulacan mayors said the use of the presidential letterhead was tantamount to undue interference on the exclusive affairs of the Comelec which has original jurisdiction over the case.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers mostly over the Eastern section.

source: **pagasa**

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI35° Lo 24°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 26° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 36° Lo 22°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 35° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 25°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 25°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 26°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 26°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 23°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 25°

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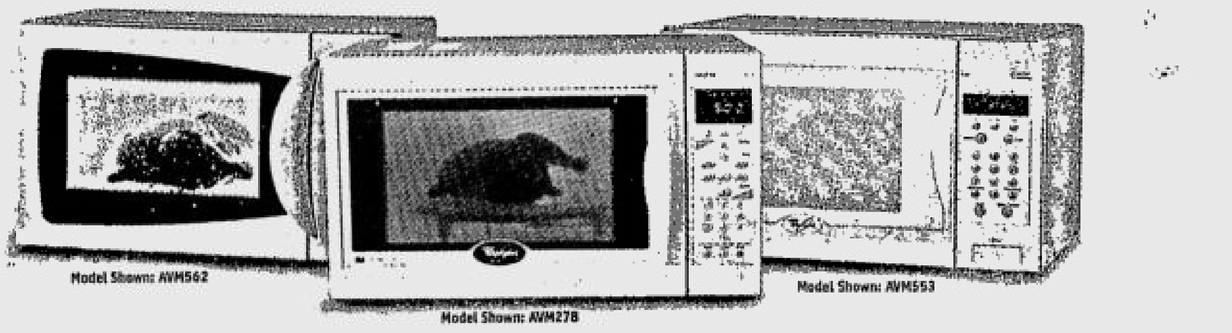
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INQUIRER Northern Luzon
Editor Jun Bandayrel ® Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

The tragedies of Tarukan

By Tonette Orejas
Capas, Tarlac

THE TWO jets roar to life. The steel blades of their rotors slice the wind. They soar in tandem, like giant birds in precise formations at midday.

Below—on the expanse of sand, pumice stones and hardened volcanic mudflows—rubber tires formed several rows. The jets hover, accurately hitting the center of the tires with inert ammunitions and bombs.

The thuds and all the war-like noises, although far but not faint, stir fear. The children of Barangay Tarukan cry or freeze in fright. The men and women, similarly shaken, cover their children's ears or embrace the kids.

Training flights and practice bombing for the RP-US Balikatan exercises in Luzon did not make Tarukan a land of peace. The Aeta village is smacked right into the Crow Valley gunnery range, which is 25 km north of Clark and 10 km northwest of Mt. Pinatubo. Filipino and American soldiers have reused the range.

Tarukan has always been in trouble. In fact, the village and the Aetas have been through real tough times.

Seven Aetas related those miserable chapters that Tonette Orejas, INQUIRER correspondent in Central Luzon, jotted down in her notebook during her stay in Tarukan in between treks to Mt. Pinatubo after 1995.

PRACTICE bombings by US Air Force men were regular in Tarukan during the 1980s.

GUY HILBERO

SUPER Maganaka (does not know his age, but he appears to be in his 80s): "Since I was a child, Tarukan has been my home. We moved from one place to another, depending (on whether) there was a string of deaths or if the land was not productive. Always, we carried the name of the village wherever we went. We were not afraid because we believe that Apo Namalyari (the god that rules the mountain) looks over us. We just have to face west to pray to him anytime of day. Our elders called that place Pinatubo.

"Before harvest time, we beseech Apo Namalyari's help. After harvest, we offer to him our best pig. We don't have titles to the land. All that our parents advised us was to nurture the land and till it so we could live. We honored each other's right to use parcels of land in this abode. The land is wide. Anybody could clear new plots so long as no one had claimed the right to use these.

"Then, before the war, people in the lowlands began grabbing our lands. They had big ranches. They had fruit farms. They had sugarcane and coffee plantations. The Cojuangcos used to have one hacienda up there (Patal Pinto). And many came to cut trees and we could not stop them from clearing the forests.

"We did not fight them. We moved up, farther into the mountain."

Libreng Cosme (does not also know his age, also appears to be in his 80s): "During World War II, Americans at the base (Clark) mobilized us Aeta men to fight Japanese soldiers. We knew the terrain. Some were enlisted as guerrillas. Tarukan was like a war zone. The Japanese dropped bombs here.

"*Bakwit* (evacuation) is not new to us. We did it during the war. I don't know why we had to fight the Japanese. Many Aetas perished. They only had bows and arrows to fight. When the war was over, the Japanese hid in the caves. Some of them ate the flesh of our Aeta women and children.

"After the war, American soldiers did not help us. We did not get anything from that war."

Jose Cosme, in his 40s: "I was just a small boy when I scavenged for *tanso* (spent bullets) and *palusapis* (aluminum wings of bombs). This was during (Ferdinand) Marcos' time. The Americans scheduled the scavenging at Target (the name that Aetas call Crow Valley) for those from the villages of Mag-Ubi, Oybo, Doray, Settler and Alunan. They did that because we quarreled over the trash. For Tarukan, it was every Friday and before dusk. But we stayed there for hours, watching the bombings and the shootings.

"The bullets were bought at P30 a kilogram. The *palusapis* fetched P800 each then. The owners of junk shops came here daily. We also earned from making replicas of helicopters and fighting jets out of bamboo.

"The income was enough to buy a cavan of rice then. We distributed the rice to the families in the clan. I don't recall any Aeta who got hurt while rummaging through the heaps of spent bullets. We know it was dangerous so we mastered how to do it without getting hurt. Makara (an older Aeta) said 10 lowlanders died.

"The Americans gave us free medical services at Clark. There were medical missions here. Because many of us wore the *lubay* (g-strings) then and there were not enough clothes, we usually asked the Americans to give us their shirts. My uncle, Pan Bituka, still keeps this camouflage jacket from one Sergeant Donahue.

"Some Aetas worked as jungle survival instructors for the Americans who trained in the forests. Big exercises happened. You know Cope Thunder (held in the 1980s)?

It was always noisy here. But what can we do? They say Crow Valley is part of Clark. I say the land is ours."

Pan Bituka, in his 50s: "The (geothermal) drillings of *pinosi* (Philippine National Oil Co.) disturbed Apo Namalyari. They bore several holes around the mountains a year before the eruption. When it was impossible to drill further, they poured chemicals to melt what blocked the way. I know this because I worked there.

"There were three drilling machines on the Tarlac side and more on the Zambales side. Then a vent at Tayawan released black steam. We did several *pangiwi* (offering of rice, corn, roasted chicken or pig and sugarcane) to appease Apo Namalyari. These did not work. The steam continued to rise. He was angry."

Makara, also in his 50s: "The river turned so hot that the fish died. The ground always shook. Everywhere it smelled like something was burning. The government was evacuating us but we did not want to go. What would we do in the lowlands?

"Then, there was this huge, huge cloud (June 12, 1991). It was moving. It was as if it was going to gobble us up. Balls of fire shot in the sky. We ran, praying to Apo Namalyari to stop, please stop being angry. Then it rained.

Mud covered our bodies. We were crying when we left the mountain.

"They (Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology) told us Pinatubo was a volcano. We only knew it was a kind mountain where our *apus* (ancestors) had lived.

"I cried leaving Pinatubo.

"At Sta. Juliana, we were told to board trucks to we didn't know where. We were taken to the Navy (Camp Servillano Aquino in Tarlac City), then to Pangasinan, then to Zambales."

Pauley Cosme, in her 40s: "We lived in tents for six months. Just plastic tents on our heads. Just cardboards or rice sacks on our backs. More than 300 Aeta children died of measles. Every night I cried. There was always a child to mourn for.

"In the evacuation centers (actually school buildings), we Aetas were always the last to get our ration of rice, sardines and pork and beans. I disliked these.

"In Pangasinan, one young visitor, a boy of perhaps 11, asked his parents to buy him some Aetas as toys that he could put in a cage. Makara, my cousin, approached the boy and told him that we Aetas are also people.

"We could not stand the life in the evacuation centers. Our elders decided to go back. My father Libreng and my uncle Super returned to check the land. They said it was all covered with sand. The river was gone. Everything was gone.

"We, 43 families in all in the clan, persisted to return. We asked for this hill. We converted it into an evacuation center. We built homes from wood and bamboo that we salvaged from the mountain."

Alindang Dalis, in her 40s: "Pinatubo is not anymore the Pinatubo we know. The environment is harsh. The sand used to be so thick. We had to use our hands to scrape the sand because we lost our tools. All that we have are digging sticks. No farm and livestock animals, too. Anyway, the sweet potatoes grew but these were always small and rarely sweet. At least there was something to eat.

"There's a lot of risk living here. At first we put up the village near the riverbanks. But lahar sometimes as high as five meters crawled and ate the banks. The river always changed course. When it rains we always move up.

"Then the wind is strong; it erodes the hill until it crumbles. At least the streams have come back to life. That's where we get water now.

"Tarukan from Sta. Juliana is two hours away on foot. Many children here get sick from malaria. There's no help coming even during elections. If you do not have perseverance, you could not survive in Tarukan."

From 'sin city' to 'most child-friendly city'

FOR DECADES, Olongapo City has been associated with American sailors, bar girls, nightclubs and abandoned Amerasians. It was once called a "sin city" for the social ills that it was known for during the heydays of the American-controlled Subic Naval Base in Subic Bay.

But this lone city of Zambales has come out of that image and now prides itself of being a model of development and pioneering programs that other cities in the country try to emulate.

The Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) in its nationwide search for child-friendly municipalities and cities for 2001, for example, has lauded Olongapo's program on the protection of children.

Olongapo was adjudged by the CWC as the country's "most child-friendly city" for its various programs protecting the rights and promoting the welfare of children, especially the handicapped. Olongapo topped the highly urbanized city category in the nationwide search.

In 1999, Olongapo City also won the search in the regional level and landed as one of the top five cities in the national level. In 2000, the city was named regional winner in the highly urbanized city category.

Mayor Katherine Gordon said Olongapo takes special pride in the success of its programs to protect the city's children and promote their welfare.

She said Olongapo City's programs include providing scholarships to poor but deserving students. Handicapped children such as the deaf, the mute and mentally retarded receive special protection and are given equal opportunity for education through the city's Sinag Center.

"Sinag literally means 'ray of the sun.' For the disadvantaged children—the street orphan, the physically handicapped and the mentally retarded—it means light at the end of the tunnel. For there is always hope for them as long as they are properly taken care of and guided with loving hands," she said.

Gordon explained that the city government maintains and supports a social development center, the Olongapo Center for Assistance, Rehabilitation and Empowerment, and the Child Minding Center.

These centers, she said, provide care, attention and protection to children in "difficult circumstances," like orphans, handicapped and poor children. The city also maintains day care centers that hold seminars and teach-ins for day care workers.

But Gordon admitted that most of the children who have benefited from these programs were not from Olongapo City. "A large number of them are from surrounding municipalities, poorer than Olongapo," she said.

Being highly urbanized, many of Olongapo's residents are employed, belong to the middle class and can therefore take care of their own children.

"It is the children who wander into Olongapo City, those from its surrounding areas, who benefit most from these programs," Gordon said.

The success of these programs rests on the shoulders of the entire Olongapo community—its residents, schools, village councils, the Church, the non-government organizations and other civic groups, she said.

"It is a common effort where everybody is involved," she said. "We believe in Olongapo that nobody is completely hopeless and helpless, especially the children. No matter how disadvantaged they are, they can always be taught skills and become useful members of society." ***PDI Central Luzon Desk***

THE MIRACULOUS Virgin of Badoc

On your way to the beach, drop by a pilgrim site

By Cristina Arzadon
Laoag City

HOW about dropping by pilgrim sites—mostly town parishes which are home to blessed religious images scattered around Northern Luzon—before frolicking in Ilocos region's beach resorts and other getaway destinations?

While the more popular sites like the Nuestra Señora de Manaoag in Manaoag, Pangasinan, and the Nuestra Señora de Caridad in Agoo, La Union, always attract bigger crowds, there are other churches worth visiting throughout summer.

The border towns of Sinait, Ilocos Sur, and Badoc, Ilocos Norte, for example, are not just neighbors. They are also homes to the "twin miraculous statues" of the Black Nazarene (Santo Cristo Milagroso) and the Virgin Mary (La Virgen Milagrosa de Badoc) with the infant Jesus wrapped in her arms.

The statues are now estimated to be more than 400 years old after their supposed discovery in the 17th century.

Oral history has it that fishermen from both towns found the life-sized statues separately in two wooden caskets floating off the coast of Dadalaguiten in Badoc town in 1620.

Prying open the sealed caskets, the fishermen also found along with the images, two statuettes of angels and a violin, all believed to have originated from Japan.

The 17th century, early writings said, marked the persecution of the growing Christian followers in predominantly Buddhist Japan.

Following his assumption as Japan's shogun (a military governor who usurped the powers of the emperor until 1868), Tokugawa Yeyasu, said to be an absolute Buddhist, immediately issued an anti-Christian decree in 1614 compelling all Christians to either renounce their religion or leave Japan to be spared from death.

Along with the decree came the order to demolish churches and cemeteries and destroy crosses, images and other Christian symbols.

To preserve the images, the Christians sealed them inside boxes and dropped them into the sea. The religious symbols eventually found their way to various points, including the Ilocos region.

Then and now, local folk attest to the oriental features of the Virgin Mary whose eyes are said to be those of either a Chinese or Japanese woman.

Even while the image of the Virgin Mary was restored to its original form in 1980, a scar below her left eye is said to have remained visible.

The scar is all that was left of two unsuccessful attempts to desecrate the image by invading Moros in 1776 and in 1836.

The Virgin Mary remained undisturbed even while the Moros tried to either burn or behead it during their attack on the town.

"The oral history persisted throughout the centuries, so there must be some truth to them," said Fr. Danny Laeda, Badoc's former parish priest for six years. Laeda himself attributed several miraculous incidents to the Virgin Mary.

"A miracle can only be seen in the eyes of the faithful. I have experienced a lot of miracles (during my stay in Badoc). Others might dismiss them as coincidental, but when I needed it (miracle) most, it just happened. How can you explain that?" he said.

One such "miracle" occurred in 1995 when Laeda planned to bring the statue to Manila.

"I was then looking for a ride big enough to accommodate the statue. I thought of going to a friend who owns a bus liner in Laoag. Just when I was packing to leave for my friend's house, there came a knock on my door with my friend outside," he said.

Gov't, opposition swap charges of provocation

From page A1

and Lacson's arrest for rebellion, according to Angara.

"I am denouncing (the plot) before they can take action against us," said Angara.

Angara said the "intelligence report" was passed on to his aides by some "level-headed elements in the military who apparently cannot stand the cheap efforts to malign the political opposition."

"The Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino which I head will work to oust the incompetent Macapagal-Arroyo administration in the 2004 election. That is our exclusive agenda," Angara said.

Happy but ready

The target appeared not to be bothered by the noise coming out of the opposition camp.

"She was very happy during the Cabinet meeting. She has no worries about tomorrow," Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable Jr. said in a press briefing on the eve of May 1.

Still, Malacañang is taking all precautions against a repeat of the siege on Malacañang staged by Estrada loyalists last year.

The President approved police deployment around Metro Manila "as a deterrent against possible violence," Afable said.

According to him, from "7,000 to 10,000" policemen will be deployed around Metro Manila, including 3,000 in Malacañang.

During yesterday's Cabinet meeting, Interior Secretary Joey Lina presented a security plan which "satisfied" the President, said Afable.

The anti-coup composite Task Force Libra "will be called in (but) only if it's necessary," Lina said.

The Armed Forces was placed on red alert starting yesterday, according to the AFP spokesperson Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta. Libra's four battalions, he said, are deployed in various points in Metro Manila with a mission to support the police.

Policemen have also been posted in "all important government buildings and public utilities," according to Lina.

Apart from the traditional Labor Day rallies, Lina said the PNP also prepared against "those who will observe the failed power grab last May 2001."

"The PNP is both prepared for a peaceful scenario and a worst case scenario," he told reporters after the Cabinet meeting.

"We have taken into consideration the joining of forces (between anti-GMA and labor groups). But in our analysis that will produce very little significance because they really don't have the big number," he added.

The other day, a tactical alliance was forged by pro-Estrada forces with some former allies of Ms Macapagal in the civil society movement to pool their efforts toward the ouster of Ms Macapagal.

Lina estimated the total turnout in today's rallies to be between 15,000 to 20,000. Laurel estimated the crowd at 50,000.

Provocations

If the crowd is as big as the opposition hopes, the PNP has a "standby force to contain and manage the protesters so they will not turn violent," Lina said.

"We really don't foresee any outbreak of violence unless there are provocations that need to be stopped or contained," he added.

The Edsa III organizing committee also accused the government of planning to disrupt its pro-Estrada rally and called on its participating member organizations to remain vigilant.

"If there is any provocation or violence, that would be coming from the ranks of the police and the government, who, we believe are planning to break the peaceful marchers on May 1," said Herman "Ka Mentong" Tiu Laurel, lead convenor of the Edsa III committee.

"We have created our own marshals to police our ranks . . . Our members will not be carrying any weapons that might be misconstrued by the authorities as an attempt to sow chaos. In fact, they will be at the mercy of the police," Laurel said.

"The government is already afraid that the growing anti-government sentiment is increasing because of the people's disenchantment with the way Mrs. Arroyo is handling this illegal government and the economy," Tiu Laurel said.

Laurel said there would be cultural programs as well as the laying of a wreath in front of Mendiola Bridge in memory of those killed in last year's "People March" Malacañang that ended in violence after the police opened fire on the demonstrators.

At least six pro-Estrada marchers were killed either by sniper fire and hundreds more were wounded when they trooped to Malacañang protesting the arrest of then President Estrada.

'Salubungan'

Among those who have confirmed their participation are the People's Movement Against Poverty (PMAP), the Union of the Masses for Democracy and Justice (UMGJ), Demokrasya and the PMP, among others.

The militant Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino (BMP), Sanlakas, Kapatiran ng Pagkakaisa ng Maralitang Tagalungsod (KPML), National Federation of Labor (NFL) and the people's Consultative Assembly (PCA), are planning to join the Edsa III forces later in the afternoon for a "salubungan" in front of the Mendiola Bridge.

Tolerance

Senators yesterday urged President Macapagal to exercise maximum restraint on the protesters.

Angara said the President should realize that the ralliers would be merely airing their grievances of the government which, they believed, no longer cares for them.

"The policy should not only be maximum tolerance but maximum restraint," Angara said, even as he appealed for calm and sobriety on the part of the protesters.

"She should listen to them instead of exclusively listening to the voice of the elite," he added.

Angara said that even the arrest of the urban poor leader Ronald Lumbao will not dent the intensity of the May 1 rally.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel said that the President should stop entertaining political talks about destabilization attempts.

Pimentel advised the President to continue with her job and institute the necessary reforms in government in order to please her critics.

He described the deployment of some 10,000 policemen as security force for today's rallies as a knee-jerk reaction that the government was in a state of panic.

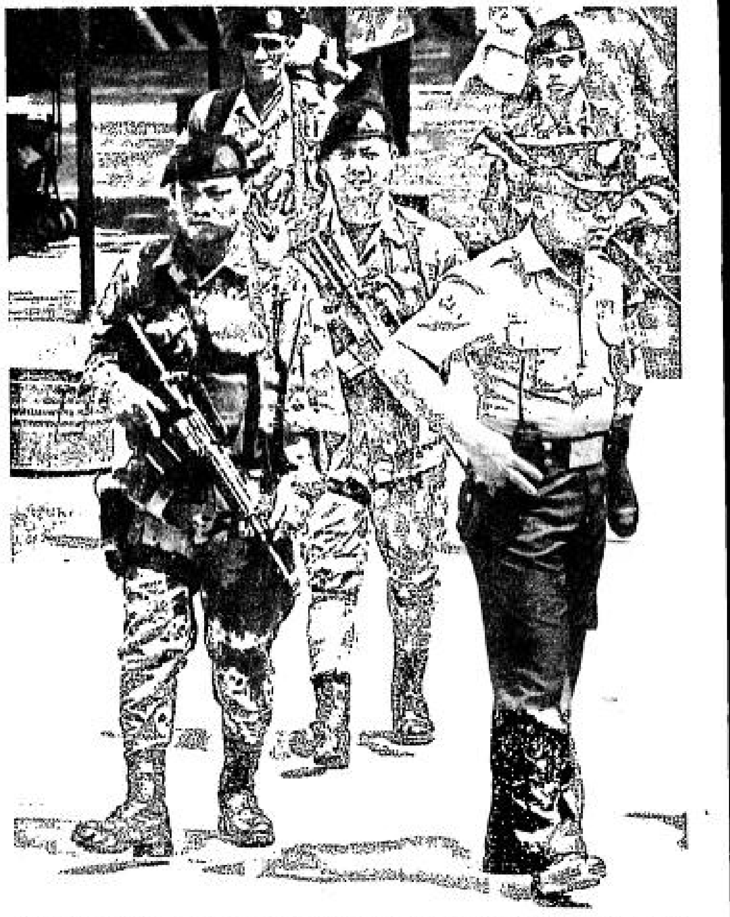
Sen. Gregorio Honasan said the President should not overreact to reports that the ralliers might destabilize anew her administration.

Honasan said Ms Macapagal should instead focus on the plight of the workers and do something about the various offenses leveled against her in the "People's Trial" the other day at Club Filipino.

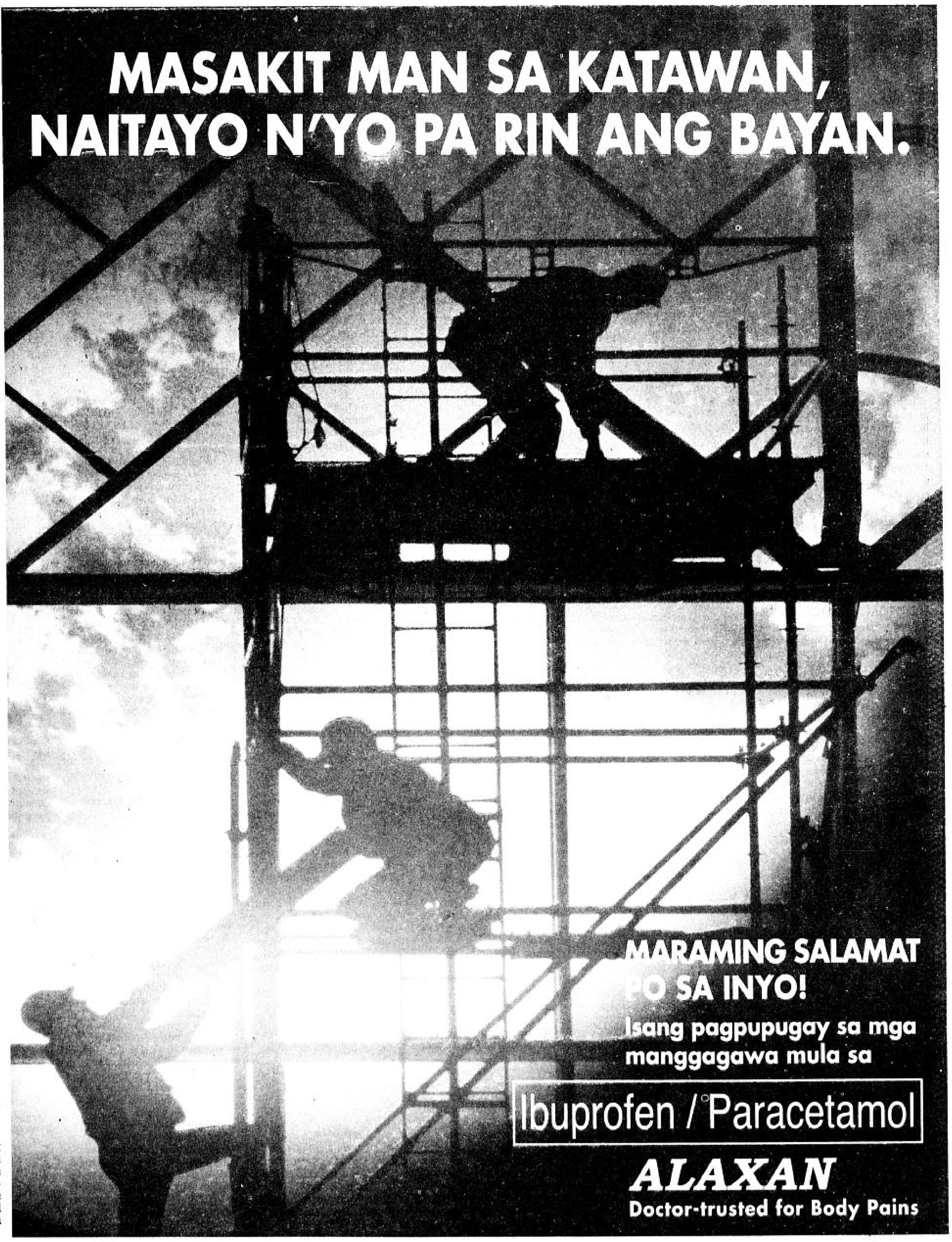
Syndicate of corruption

He accused the President of setting up a syndicate of corruption among some of her trusted men in her Cabinet and in other fund-rich government agencies in preparation for her presidential bid in 2004.

Honasan also said he has no plans of joining any political rallies today in disprove allegations that he was supporting destabilization moves against the government. ***With reports from Martin Marfil, Cynthia Balana, AP***



DEPLOYMENT of thousands of armed policemen has been called by the opposition the "paranoia of the Palace."



MASAKIT MAN SA KATAWAN,
NAITAYO N'YO PA RIN ANG BAYAN.
MARAMING SALAMAT PO SA INYO!
Isang pagpupugay sa mga manggagawa mula sa
Ibuprofen / Paracetamol
ALAXAN
Doctor-trusted for Body Pains

Palace: Unrest won't last

From page A1

scribed the PCA's statements as "obviously driven by political hype" and "fed to intensify media interest in activities leading to the Labor Day celebration and other activities."

"I think all these statements and activities are really driven by that date (May 1)," he added. "After that date we will all get down to the normal business of trying to build the nation, and the people will be freed of all these distractions."

Only a guest

Fortaleza clarified that he was at the Club Filipino "as a guest, mainly to share Sanlakas' economic and social vision with the PCA congress that was in session."

He said he left the place a few minutes after he delivered his message and before the planned "mock trial," wherein Ms Macapagal was found "guilty" of such crimes as betrayal of public trust and graft and corruption.

He added that he was surprised to learn later in the news that a "coalition" of anti-Macapagal forces had been formed.

"Let me clarify that Sanlakas is not part of the PCA process wherein they were able to arrive at the concept of a coalition based on the points mentioned," Fortaleza said.

He said he was "not aware" that a proposal for a parliamentary form of government with a federal character had been made.

"Or maybe this was just a play-up," he said. "For if there was such (a proposal), we could have rejected it outright. Ms Montayre knows our position on this."

Fortaleza said Sanlakas viewed the proposal as "a hollow alternative" and rejected it like it did "the elitist concept of collective leadership being espoused by Freedom Force."

He said these "alternatives" excluded the poor and considered them ignorant people "needing to be ruled by the best and brightest from among the most educated section of the middle forces."

"What we are fighting for is neither a change in presidents nor a change in forms of government but a change in class rule," Fortaleza declared.

He called on workers, urban poor, women and youth to join the street protests.

"That is where alliances should be made," he said. "This is where we call on the PCA and other political groups to let and help the masses build their own alliances themselves. Let them build their own independent movement because only then will genuine people-powered social change emerge."

Desire for power

Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno said the emergence of the supposed coalition was, "at its barest minimum . . . a manifestation of a desire to take power."

While he conceded that this desire was "legitimate ambition," he pointed out that "there are constitutional processes that should be followed."

He said he did not think the people would rally behind the opposition forces. "This administration is not without shortcomings, but on the whole the economy has picked up and the achievements far outweigh the shortcomings," he noted.

Moreno said the President should "just stay focused" and "do (her) job."

He said the opposition forces were "worried" because she had made "meaningful strides."

Outstanding achievement

He cited the reversal of the international community's ratings for the Philippines from negative to positive and stable as the President's most outstanding achievement, and the "vacillation on the (Estrada) case and the hands-off policy" on the impeachment of Ombudsman Aniano Desierto as one of her shortcomings.

Moreno, a former prosecutor at Estrada's impeachment trial, said there was a "lack of decisiveness" in handling the Estrada case. He said the President should have "asserted the supremacy of the law."

He also said the opposition noise was an expression of "impatience" over the prospect of another six years of Ms Macapagal should she run and win in the 2004 presidential election.

Davao City Rep. Prospero Nograles said the opposition forces did not have the numbers to upset or topple the administration.

"The dogs of war can bark all they want, but they can't bite," he said. "They have no popular support. They had their chance and they really blew it. Now it is her game and she is doing well."

Strange bedfellows

In separate interviews, Gonzalez and Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri said the groups that had joined forces were strange bedfellows.

"Maybe they want each other's shoulders to cry on," Gonzalez said, adding that he could not understand why former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile and others were "cavorting" with the PCA's Montayre.

"But it would be good for the government to monitor these developments because it is entitled to defend itself," Gonzalez said, noting that some of the opposition personalities were the agitators of last year's siege of Malacañang.

"I don't understand how our friends in the Left and reform-minded colleagues would share rallying grounds with the supporters of Erap. It's quite ironic," Zubiri said.

Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr. said the opposition forces did not pose "a real threat" to the administration.

"I think (the President) should stay cool, not overreact," he said, adding:

"(She should) stay true to herself and her personality. If she is not the most charming person in the world, I don't think she should make the effort of showing herself as anything than what she is—a kind of firm and impatient woman—as long as she gets the right things done."

Locsin also said the President had been "advised in the past not to try to court her enemies, the people she made unhappy by overthrowing Erap."

"(When you do right), they will come around," he said. "But if you go to them, you lose support. She should stay true to what she represented when she took power. You can never really please the people extremely loyal to (Estrada)."

'Super-betrayal'

The militant fisherfolk group Pamalakaya said the call to unseat the President and have Estrada revoke his "leave of absence" was "barbaric, insane and a super-betrayal of People Power II."

It said in a statement that while it was also for Ms Macapagal's ouster, it could not accept this happening with Estrada reclaiming his lost post.

Pamalakaya secretary general Jun Luna said the people should form a "true broad anti-Gloria front" that would call for her resignation on the basis of issues manifesting her administration's "puppetry to the United States, obsession with globalization, cycle of corruption and creeping dictatorship."

In Tarlac City, workers said the move of the PCA and its allies to join forces and launch protest actions aimed at unseating Ms Macapagal was "a distortion of the true meaning of Labor Day."

"What we are seeing is an effort of disgruntled power grabbers to capitalize on the genuine sentiments of the working people to take back political power, as what happened (in the May 1 siege) last year," said longtime trade union organizer Eliseo Cadiang.

But Cadiang, who chairs the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan in Tarlac, said that Ms Macapagal had "miserably failed" to uplift the life of the ordinary Filipino, and that she had to answer for this and other shortcomings.

The Nagkakaisang Manggagawa ng Tarlac, the biggest labor alliance in the province, said it would not join forces with Estrada supporters.

But it criticized the President for failing to support labor's demand for wage increases and to act on complaints of widespread contractualization and harassment of local unions. ***With reports from Armand N. Nocum in Manila; Abner Bolos, Cesar Villa and Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Workers march today . . .

From page A1

Drivers belonging to the Nagkahiusang Drayber sa Sugbo (Nadsu) will stop plying their routes starting 4:30 a.m.

Alex Hugo, Nadsu president, said the group planned to paralyze 90 to 95 percent of their 33 routes within Metro Cebu. The Nadsu claims membership of 4,000 to 5,000 drivers in the province.

The group said it was opposing the government's "anti-driver" policies. Nadsu called attention to the oil price hike, mandatory drug testing of drivers and the seat-belt law.

Hugo said the drivers would present their manifesto to President Macapagal upon her arrival in Cebu at about 11 a.m.

The members of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan also plan to march from Fuente Osmeña Rotunda to Colon Street near the Cebu Coliseum where the President is expected to give her speech.

Democrito Mendoza, ALU-TUCP national president, said they too would submit a petition to Ms Macapagal, for salary adjustments and other benefits for workers.

Filipino workers lauded

In launching "Pinoy: Pang-Global Ka!" DOLE has taken heart from favorable studies by industry research groups, which debunk "unsubstantiated" notions that Filipino workers are unproductive and not properly motivated and skilled for global competitions.

DOLE cited a study by the Meta Group, a respected international research and consulting firm. The study, "Global New e-Economy Index of 2000" which measured countries' technological production potential, pointed to the Philippines as the leader in well-trained, highly skilled workers who could become frontliners in the development and operation of the new information-based economy.

DOLE said the finding was bolstered when the Hong Kong-based Political and Risk Consultancy Ltd. ranked Filipino labor No. 1 in Asia in terms of quality, availability, cost and overall competitiveness.

The firm placed the Philippines at the top of its list when it came to the availability of skilled labor, ahead of India and Japan. The Philippines ranked second on labor cost.

DOLE estimates that around 2,400 skilled Filipino workers are deployed daily to various destinations worldwide.

It noted that such demand emphasized overseas Filipino workers' viability in almost all types of jobs and their potential to excel even more.

'Hakot'

But the DOLE itself has come under fire from the Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (Courage), which denounced the agency's order to its employees to attend the government-sponsored Labor Day Centennial Celebrations at Araneta Coliseum in Cubao, Quezon City.

Courage said Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas issued the "mandatory attendance" order in an April 25 memorandum.

"The order encroaches on the basic right to self-organization and self-determination of all government unions and associations," said Courage national president Ferdinand Gaite. He said the hauling of government employees by the busloads (derisively referred to as *"hakot"*) to beef up government-led celebrations should have ended with the demise of the Marcos regime.

The huge militant labor group Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) for its part said it would hold rallies around the country to assail the President's anti-labor policies.

KMU spokesperson Elmer Labog said the group had no intention of teaming up with "pro-(ousted president Joseph) Estrada forces" expected to stage their own rallies to mark the so-called Edsa III.

"We will conduct our own protests, but one thing is sure, there will be no pro-Macapagal rallies on May 1. All protests are directed against the anti-poor and oppressive government led by Ms Macapagal," he said.

Reduced significance

With three forces—moderate and militant labor, pro-Estrada and pro-government—expected to be on the streets today shouting their separate slogans, Senate President Franklin Drilon noted that the significance of Labor Day has been reduced.

"Certainly, the right of the working man will not become the focus but the political rallies that will take place," he told reporters.

He said gone were the days when Labor Day was really the day when workers voiced their grievances and the government moved to address the needs of those in the labor sector.

Drilon, former labor secretary, said it was unfortunate that the Labor Day would be marred by political talks about destabilization and toppling the government.

"It's sad. I look forward to the day again that Labor Day would be purely for workers, when the government will be forced to look upon the plight of the workers," he said. ***Jhunnex Napallacan, Carla P. Gomez, Nestor P. Burgos Jr. and Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau, Armand Nocum and Cynthia Balana***

Military: Abus, not MNLF, behind Arlyn's kidnapping

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The military yesterday said broadcast journalist Arlyn de la Cruz was abducted by Abu Sayyaf bandits, and not former members of the Moro National Liberation Front who had been integrated into the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Lt. Col. Danilo Servando, spokesperson of the Southern Command, said that from the initial investigation of Col. Romeo Tolentino, chief of the 104th Brigade, all 2,000 MNLF integrees in Sulu were "in their respective posts (starting in) January until the day De la Cruz was reportedly released last April 27."

"De la Cruz's allegation is inaccurate," Servando told the INQUIRER, referring to the journalist's statement in an earlier interview that some of her abductors were MNLF integrees.

According to Servando, Tolentino's investigation showed that MNLF integrees who were discharged from the military service last year "because of their reported participation in the Sipadan hostage-taking" were behind De la Cruz's abduction.

Servando could not say exactly how many integrees had been discharged from the service.

But he said De la Cruz's abductors were probably "pretending to be in the active service in order to destroy the image of the AFP."

"As far as the military is concerned, her abductors are pure Abu Sayyaf and Lakandula (the group's alleged leader) is a member of the Abu Sayyaf," he added.

Military reports said Lakandula was the right-hand man of slain Abu Sayyaf chief Abdurajak Janjalani.

"After (Abdurajak's) death, we did not hear any word from Lakandula except during the time when De la Cruz was taken hostage," said Maj. Gen. Glicerio Sua, chief of the Task Force Comet.

Sua said the younger brother of Sulu-based Abu Sayyaf leader Mujib Susukan was also integrated into the AFP two years ago, but was later discharged from the service because of his alleged participation in the Sipadan kidnappings.

Lawyer Jose Manuel Mamauag, Commission on Human Rights director for Western Mindanao, urged De la Cruz to file a case before his office.

"Sulu is still part of our coverage, and we will welcome De la Cruz's statement," Mamauag said. ***Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Loren blows top over ransom . . .

From page A1

tion."

The statement also congratulated Legarda for helping facilitate the safe and unconditional release of Collantes and six other hostages in the past, including Army Gen. Victor Obillo and police Maj. Noel Buan.

Privilege speech

In a privilege speech, Legarda lashed at her detractors for imputing ill will on her efforts to secure the release of De la Cruz.

She said the baseless allegations which came out in a newspaper column (not the INQUIRER), as well as the alleged military report were damaging to her character, honor and integrity.

She insisted that no ransom was paid contrary to insinuations and that she was adhering to the no-ransom policy of the government.

"Mr. President, my colleagues: My help was sought and I responded to the appeal of Arlyn's family. I risked my life and accomplished my mission," Legarda said.

She continued: "I have returned Arlyn de la Cruz, a fellow broadcaster, who has been held hostage in the hinterlands of Jolo for 98 days, to the bosom of her family."

Legarda stressed that she succeeded where many others who tried to help failed. She attributed her success to God and other Muslims who helped her accomplished her mission.

Legarda also said she had no quarrel with the military but that she wanted to set the record straight to strengthen the institution and cleanse it of undesirable elements who undermine its reputation.

Legarda said that she decided not to coordinate her rescue efforts with the military since her sources indicated that De la Cruz was kidnapped by former rebels from the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) who had been integrated into the AFP. ***(See related story on this page.)***

"I have been in public service for so long, Mr. President, and I have worked so hard to serve the Filipino people and our country with utmost perseverance, honesty and sincerity. And I do not care for any credit," Legarda said during her speech.

During the interpellation, Sen. Serge Osmeña asked Legarda how sure was she that no ransom was paid when her help to secure the release of De la Cruz was only made recently.

Osmeña insisted that ransom could have been paid without the knowledge of the senator. Which suggestion was rejected by Legarda who said that she has personal knowledge of the negotiations for the unconditional release of the kidnapped victim.

Why not file libel case?

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said that he commiserated with Legarda for the flak she has been getting from certain quarters regarding her role in the release.

He said that the issue does not only affect Legarda but has become a major concern of the Senate.

Biazon also asked Legarda why she did not file libel charges against newspaper columnists who insisted that she personally raised the P2-million ransom. Legarda said this was not possible.

Legarda replied that being a former journalist, she knew that she cannot force newsmen to reveal their sources and that she did not want to receive more flak considering that yesterday was the anniversary of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkasters sa Pilipinas.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel said that he lauded Legarda's role in the release of De la Cruz and her public rejection of the ransom payment.

Earlier reports said that it was Mashur Jundam who delivered P2 million in Indanan, Sulu, on the morning of April 27.

Jundam, who was interviewed the other day during the Philippine Consultative Assembly congress in Club Filipino, also denied that ransom was paid.

Ransom for De la Cruz was initially pegged at P11 million but was lowered to P2 million because of continuous operations against the Abu Sayyaf, according to the military.

Rift with De Castro

Legarda's participation in the release of De la Cruz had created a rift between her and Sen. Noli de Castro who had earlier negotiated for the release of De la Cruz.

The rift was apparently patched up after Legarda denied that she had said De Castro had a crab mentality (*"utak-talangka"*).

The two senators were photographed at the Senate session hall on Monday bussing each other's cheek.

At 94, labor . . .

From page A1

1948, continues to handle the legal cases of various labor groups.

The first chief legal counsel of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) still attends hearings at the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) and travels to places as far as Laguna for consultations with labor unions, particularly in the sugar and textile industries.

"I had to take the stairs because the elevator was not working, and it was a difficult walk up to the fourth floor, but I got there. I always do," a cheerful Lerum said of his visit on Monday to the NLRC office where he took care of some papers for a case involving Solidbank.

He said Solidbank had dismissed 129 workers in April 2000 for joining a demonstration at the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) to protest what they deemed was an unfair decision of then DOLE secretary Bienvenido Laguesma concerning their stalled collective bargaining negotiations.

Lerum, who was a member of the 1986 Constitutional Commission, had ensured that there would be sufficient protection for workers. The provisions on the rights to form a union, to collective bargaining and to strike were a product of Lerum's and his contemporaries' advocacy.

Lobbying with Marcos

Lerum was also an assemblyman representing the industrial labor sector from 1978 to 1986.

He recalled that he, along with other NLU officials, would often come to Malacañang Palace to discuss labor issues with then President Marcos.

It was during one of these meetings that Lerum and his fellow labor leaders advocated for a security of tenure for workers. This resulted in the promulgation of Presidential Decree No. 21, which barred companies from removing an employee without the approval of the Labor chief.

After martial law, however, many employers lobbied for the repeal of the decree, but Lerum and his companions managed to convince Marcos to declare that employers would have the burden of proof in court if they removed any of their workers.

"Even though he was like that, Marcos enjoyed the support of workers during his time because he was always giving packages for us on Labor Day and the doors of Malacañang were always open to us. We could come anytime we wanted," Lerum says.

The older Macapagal

Lerum started his involvement in unionism in 1938 when he and some colleagues organized a union in Meralco. He was fired in 1941, and he had vowed to devote his legal practice fighting for workers' rights.

Marcos' predecessor, the older Macapagal, was also popular with the workers because he knew how to please the labor sector, Lerum recalls.

He remembers how Macapagal wooed workers by raising the minimum wage from P4 to P6.

However, Macapagal's daughter, President Macapagal-Arroyo, recently ruled out the possibility of a wage hike during today's Labor Day celebration.

"If there's one thing that GMA can do to raise her popularity rating again, it would be to show the workers that she loves them," Lerum says, adding that the President should push for a standard minimum wage—living wages—for the labor sector.

"Since she's in power, she might as well do something like what her father did before he ran for reelection," Lerum said.

The labor leader thinks the minimum wage is too low, considering that the cost of living in Metro Manila last year was already P506 per day for a family of six.

He also wants to push for profit sharing among workers, saying it was one of the provisions in the Constitution that few companies recognize.

Tribute

Lerum will receive a tribute as one of the oldest living labor leaders during the government's Labor Day celebration program at the Araneta Coliseum this afternoon.

He does not mind the recognition, but he insists he does not stay active in the labor sector for such perks.

"I already find it hard to walk, but when I hear that a union is having legal problems, I stand up and go out to try and help. It's what keeps me going," Lerum says.

He, however, laments that some labor groups are now too politicized to sincerely work for the workers' welfare. Labor rallies have also become more violent, he observes.

"Many unions are flighty, transferring from one labor group to another if they do not like some personalities," he observes.

"The labor alliances, for their part, should stop the union-raiding that is very rampant nowadays."

"And be reasonable with your demands. Don't give your workers false hopes when you know you're asking for too much," he advises.

Manggagawang Pilipino
YAMAN NG LAHI!

Bilang handog ng kabataan sa manggagawang Pilipino, mahigit na 15,000 mga kabataang wala sa paaralan (out-of-school youth) ay maglilinis ng mga lansangan at estero at magsasagawa ng iba't-ibang gawaing sibiko sa Kalakhang Maynila bilang pakikiisa sa pagdiriwang ng

ARAW NG PAGGAWA
(Ika-1 ng Mayo 2002)

Ito ay bahagi ng proyektong

Kalinga sa Kabataan (OSY)

sa ilalim ng programang

Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan (KALAHI)

ni

PANGULONG

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

Department of the Interior and Local Government

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SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◎ *Assistant Editor* **Edwin M. Villanueva**

SPORTS ON TV **Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat**

BASKETBALL: NBA First Round Playoffs – Orlando Magic vs Charlotte Hornets, Game 4 at 7 a.m. (r – 1 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.) on ESPN

MOTOR SPORTS: International Motorsports News 2002 at 7:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

1,000 ATHLETES

National trackfest kicks off today

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE Milo national open invitational track and field championships blast off today at the Rizal Memorial track oval with national team members seeing action against more than 1,000 athletes from 12 countries.

The four-day event, being held in honor of the late sports leader Gov. Jose Sering, also dangles slots in the prestigious Asian Amateur Athletics Association Grand Prix to be held also in the country later this month.

"This is our way of saying thank you to our beloved mentor Gov. Sering," said athletics chief Go Teng Kok, who will also tender a grand tribute to the former Philippine Olympic Committee president and 4As founder on May 3 to be attended by local and foreign sports officials.

Last year's Southeast Asian Games gold medalists Eduardo Buenavista, John Lozada, Lerma Bulauitan, Roy Vence, Ernie Candelario, Christabel Martes and brothers Fidel and Dandy Gallenero pit their skills against foreign rivals and untested athletes from the provinces.

"This is like sending our athletes abroad because they get to compete against their possible competitors in the Asian Games," said Go, referring to the Busan Asiad in September. "This and the Grand Prix will test our preparedness for the Asian Games."

More than 100 foreign athletes are set to compete in the Sering Cup coming from Sri Lanka, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Indonesia, Sabah-Malaysia, Chinese-Taipei and Brunei.

He added that winners in the Gov. Sering Cup will be seeded in the May 26 Grand Prix, whether they belong to the national team or not, as a form of incentive for local competitors aside from the cash rewards staked for those who will break records.

"I'm really hoping that we can break more records this year," said Go. "Last year, five national marks fell and I'm confident we can improve further."

Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain, POC president Celso Dayrit and former Asia's sprints queen Lydia de Vega-Mercado are expected to grace the 9 a.m. opening rites.

GO

Hotdogs down Tigers, 89-86

GAMES TOMORROW (Philsports)
6 p.m.—San Miguel vs Alaska
8 p.m.—Purefoods vs Coca-Cola

By June Navarro

DERRICK Brown saved his best for last as Purefoods upstaged Coca-Cola, 89-86, and gained headway at the start of their semifinal series last night in the PBA Samsung Governors Cup at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Brown unloaded eight of his team's last 12 points, including a jumper in the final 30 seconds that sealed the victory for the Hotdogs.

"Once again it's the measure of the heart. We've been down almost all game long until we made important stops in the end," said Purefoods interim coach Ryan Gregorio, whose wards beat Batang Red Bull, 82-77, last week en route to the semifinals.

Trailing three-fourths of the way, the Hotdogs reversed the tide in the final period when Brown started imposing himself on the floor and Kelvin Price cracked down on the Tigers' incursions inside the paint.

"The Price is right," said Gregorio, referring to the 6-foot-6 Price, a replacement for the ailing Leonard White.

"There's no way of stopping Ron Hale and the only way to beat Coke is to play a mean defense. Price typified the defensive stance that we needed on the floor," the former UP Maroon added.

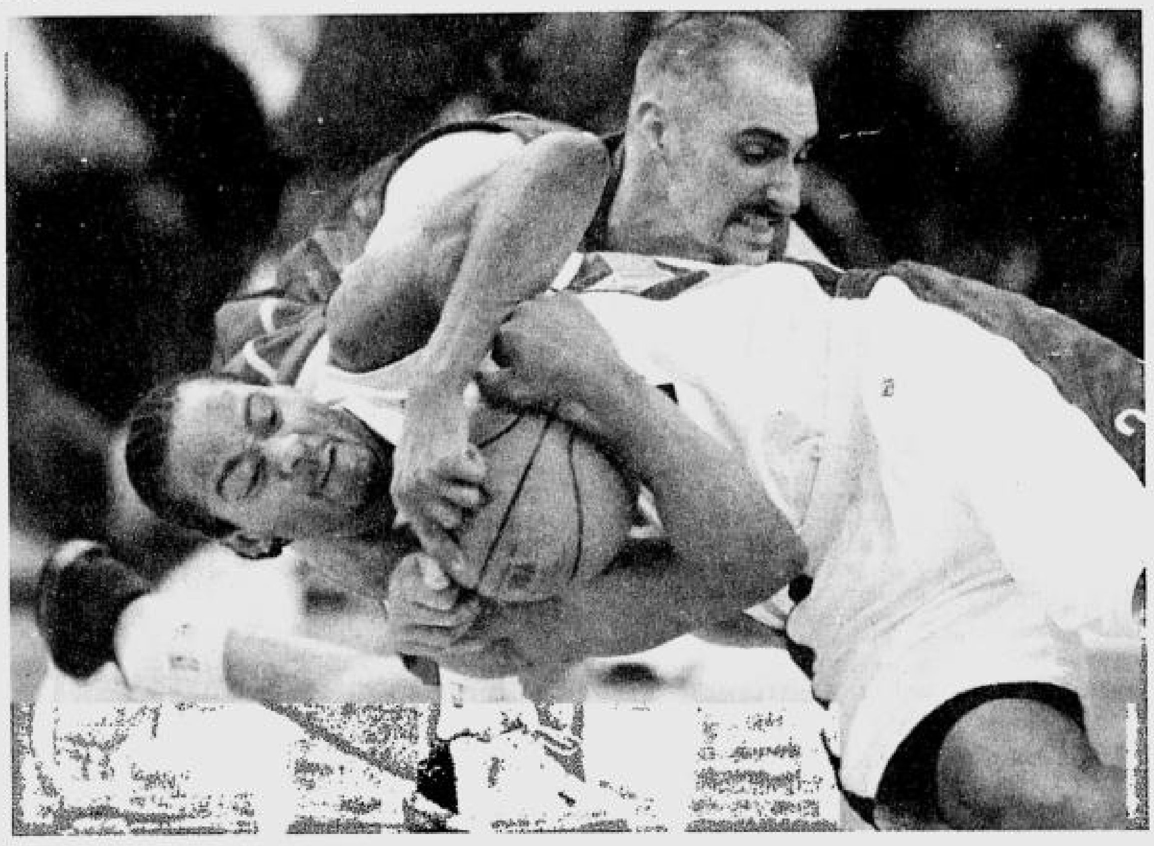
In the other game, Boybits Victoria hit nine triples as San Miguel Beer subdued Alaska, 72-66, to take Game 1 of their best-of-five semifinal series.

Scores:

PUREFOODS 89—Brown 33, Price 20, Raymundo 9, Yee 9, Patrimonio 5, Yap 5, Evangelista 5, Magsanoc 3.

COCA-COLA 86—Hale 33, Ellis 18, Ballesteros 12, Morano 11, Antonio 5, abuda 4, Avenido 3, Bolado 0.

Quarters 18-24; 44-53; 65-71; 89-86.



TORONTO Raptors' Morris Peterson (bottom) battles over the ball with Detroit Piston's Jon Barry during their NBA first round playoff in Toronto on Monday. Toronto won, 89-83. AP

Kings enter semis; Raptors prevail

SALT LAKE CITY—Peja Stojakovic broke out of a shooting slump with 30 points, and Chris Webber scored 23 as Sacramento beat Utah to advance to the Western Conference semifinals.

The Kings, seeded first in the West after winning 61 regular-season games, will be home Saturday against Dallas for Game 1 of the conference semifinals after eliminating Utah 3-1.

Vlade Divac, who predicted the Jazz were "done" after Sacramento's victory in Game 1, took a big step toward backing up his claim when he hit a huge 3-pointer with 1:29 to play, giving the Kings an 87-81 lead.

Raptors 89, Pistons 83

Keon Clark had 19 points and 16 rebounds and Morris Peterson scored a career playoff-high 20 points as Toronto beat Detroit 89-83 to level their first-round playoff series at 2 games each.

5 foreigners make rookie team

NEW YORK—A record five foreign players made NBA All-Rookie teams Monday, including Spain's Pau Gasol of the Memphis Grizzlies, who last week became the first foreigner to win Rookie of the Year. Also on rookie teams, which started in 1963, were San Antonio's Tony Parker of France, Utah's Andrei Kirilenko of Russia, and Seattle's Vladimir Radmanovic and Detroit's Zeljko Rebraca of Yugoslavia. *AP*

Osaka ousts Pampanga

By Roy Luarca

GAMES FRIDAY (RMC Gym)
3 p.m.—Cagayan vs Negros
6 p.m.—Cebu vs Davao

OLONGAPO CITY—Chris Clay was hot, Romel Adducul dominant.

It was hardly surprising that Osaka Pangasinan ousted Pampanga, 90-82, yesterday in the MBA First Conference at the Olongapo Convention Center.

The prolific Clay scored a game-high 39 points while Romel Adducul ably supported him with 18 points and 18 rebounds.

Clay fired 41 points in the Waves' 94-85 conquest of the Olongapo Volunteers on Saturday.

Osaka Pangasinan thus improved to 4-3 and stayed on course toward bagging a semifinals slot in the Northern Conference.

Pampanga, on the other hand, followed Casino Cagayan de Oro to the exits at 1-7.

So devastating was the Clay-Adducul combine that they outscored the entire Pampanga bench in the third quarter, pushing the Waves ahead at 73-60.

The Waves led by as many as 17 points (73-56) late in the third quarter as Clay poured in 19 points and the Waves dropped a 23-7 bomb.

Cebuana Lhuillier and Olongapo are tangling at presstime.

Professional Davao downed LBC Batangas at the Davao Oriental Sports and Cultural Center to rise to 5-3. LBC Batangas fell to 3-3.

Scores:

PANGASINAN 90—Clay 39, Adducul 18, Aquino 12, Ferreria 6, Banares 3, Lambert 3, De Guia 2, David 0, Garcia 0, Du 0.

PAMPANGA 82—Dela Rosa 19, Bansil 18, Liangco 15, Melencio 9, Mejia 6, Payne 6, Guinto 4, Cocjin 0, Ignacio 0.

Quarters: 26-27, 44-45, 73-60, 90-82.

Milagrosa stuns Antonio; Roca shares lead

Standing after five rounds:

Men's: Gomez, Paragua, Garma, Roca 3.5 points; Mariano, Nadera 3; Antonio, Villamayor, Bancod, Sanchez, Milagrosa 2.5; Torre 2; Barbosa, Ranola, Sumngat 1.5; Merelos 1.

Women's: Castellano, Lomibao, Mendoza 4 points; Mariano, Cua, Joya 3; Abanes 2.5; Espallardo, Torres, Cruz 2; Dela Cruz, Rivera, Castro 1.5; Toledo 1.

THE FIFTH round of the grand finals of the National Chess Championship claimed another upset victim in GM Rogelio "Joey" Antonio late Tuesday at the All Asia Capital Center.

Antonio, the 39-year old perennial Board 2 player in several chess Olympiads, bowed to NM Alex Milagrosa in 42 moves of a Caro Kann defense to follow the path taken by fellow GMs Bong Villamayor and Eugene Torre in the tournament sponsored by Lex Development Corp.

The loss dropped Antonio into a five-way tie with Villamayor, IM Ronald Bancod, NM Joseph Sanchez and Milagrosa.

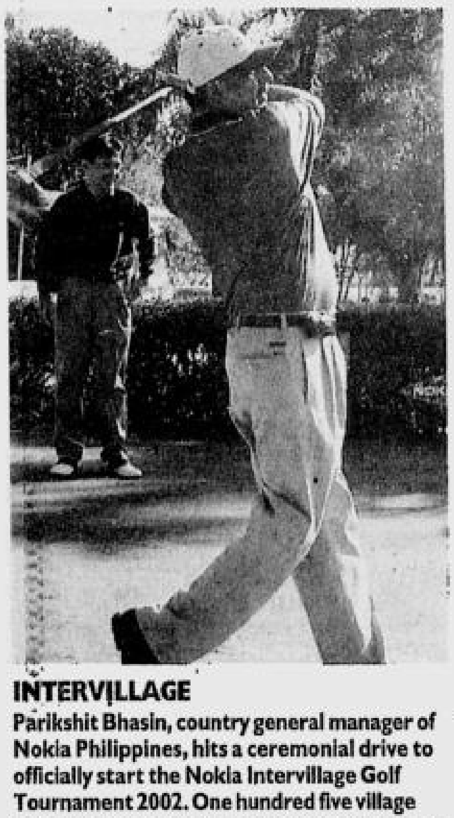
NM Petronio Roca improved to 3.5 points to join joint fourth-round leaders NM John Paul Gomez, IM Mark Paragua and IM Chito Garma.

Roca, one of 10 qualifiers in the semifinals, stamped his class over untitled Melvin Merelos after a marathon 78 moves to be among the leaders, as Gomez, Paragua and Garma settled for draws.

ANTONIO

The 15-year old Gomez and the 18-year-old Paragua halved the point after slugging it out for 66 moves, while Garma and Nelson Mariano II agreed to a 20-move draw in their Sicilian encounter.

Torre, who is coming off two straight losses, opted for a regulation 15-move draw with Villamayor in a Ruy Lopez game. Torre has 2.5 points going into the sixth round today.



INTERVILLAGE

Parikshit Bhasin, country general manager of Nokia Philippines, hits a ceremonial drive to officially start the Nokia Intervillage Golf Tournament 2002. One hundred five village golfers played in the inaugural tournament at Manila Golf Club recently. The popular series resumes on May 6 with the staging of the Nokia Intervillage South for villages in Parañaque, Las Piñas and Muntinlupa.

Davao bets forge tennis showdown

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—Davao bets Ruel Rubillar and Pierre Fernandez ousted their seeded rivals Monday night to arrange a third-round showdown in the first Coca-Cola National Tennis Championships at the International Tennis Center.

Rubillar fought back from a first-set loss to eliminate seventh seed Jesse Lapore, 2-6, 6-2, 6-2, while Fernandez breezed past No. 11 Roland Kraut, 6-2, 6-2.

Top seeds Johnny Arcilla and second seed Adelo Abadia scored hard-earned victories to gain second-round slots in this Group 1 event presented by Coca Cola Bottlers Phils. Inc. and sponsored by the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority headed by Felicito Payumo.

Arcilla recovered from a second-set deficit to beat Ian de Guzman, 6-3, 5-7, 6-0, and advance against No. 14 Pop Dabandon of La Salle, who won over Chris Koruga, 6-2, 3-2 (ret.).

Abadia lost the first set but regained his form to conquer Von Ruelan, 6-7 (2), 6-0, 6-3, to advance against the winner between No. 16 Raymund Lopez and Glenn Guanes.

Third seed Joseph Victorino clobbered Randy Villanueva, 6-2, 6-2; fourth seed Michael Mora III outclassed Arnel dela Cruz, 6-0, 6-2; and fifth pick Rolando Ruel trounced Karl Santamaria, 6-0, 6-2, to also advance in the round-of-16.

Other winners in this netfest supported by PLDT, Union Bank, Chris Sports, Wilson, Rpicne, Union Cement And Adidas were No. 10 Antonio Sagansay III over John Paul Lopez, 6-0, 6-0; No 13 Frederick Morgan over Irwin de Guzman, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4; Ricardo Lagac Jr. over Chase Tinio, 6-0, 6-2; Terence Estrope over Patrick Joh Tierro, 7-5, 7-5.

First Speaker's Cup set May 9

PRESIDENT Arroyo is playing in the First Speaker's Cup for Haven tournament slated Thursday, May 9, at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club's West course.

Gina de Venecia, president and chairperson of the organizing Congressional Spouses Foundation Inc., and Margie Duavit, the tournament's overall chairperson, jointly bared this yesterday.

De Venecia said that the First Speaker's Cup is CSFI's second major project for the year, which is to establish a National Haven for Children.

Another special guest invited is House Speaker Jose de Venecia, who is the honoree of the 18-hole tournament.

The executive committee members are Philippine Stock Exchange director Peter Favila, Radio Veritas managing director Choy Alas, CFSI consultant Bobby Bautista and Joe de Venecia's chief of staff Boy Nakpil. Col. Abelardo Villanueva is the tournament director.

The major sponsors are Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, San Miguel Corporation and ICTSI.

Harp, Aquino to play in June, says PBA

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

MY *kabayan* Philippine Basketball Association Commissioner Jun Bernardino wrote me to say that Batang Red Bull Davonn Harp and Marlou Aquino of Sta. Lucia Realty may join their respective mother ballclubs starting the second conference, which is the PBA Commissioner's Cup, set to start in June.

"I wish to give the Philippine Basketball Association's real ruling on the case of the players who were selected to try out and didn't make it to the Philippine team bound for the September Asian Games in Busan, South Korea," Bernardino said in his letter, stressing that I raised a point that was never ruled by the office of the commissioner. The point Bernardino was talking about was the news report on Harp, Aquino and the other certified crowd drawers who took part in the Asiad tryouts such as Edward Junio (Coca-Cola), Ali Peek (Alaska), EJ Feihl (Ginebra) and Don Camaso (Talk N Text) being disallowed from joining their mother teams until the All-Filipino Cup (third conference) late this year.

"While it is true that we have disallowed some of those cut from the pool to rejoin their mother teams in the ongoing Samsung Governors Cup, we have never told anyone that they will be allowed back to their mother teams only in the season-ending All-Filipino Cup," Bernardino said. "Mr. Davonn Harp of Batang Red Bull and Mr. Marlou Aquino of Sta. Lucia may join their respective mother ballclubs starting the second conference in June. I hope this clears everything up."

O Thank you, *kabayan*. I'm pretty sure that the return of Harp, Aquino, Peek and the others to play for their mother teams is not only fair, but will also add luster to the embattled league given the present woeful circumstances of dwindling gate receipts, mounting complaints over lousy officiating (and game fixing?) and the presence of arrogant and abusive imports. Not to mention the problems of Fil-American players with fraudulent documents, reported loss of TV income and the unpleasant reports linking several very influential PBA officials to the illegal importation of Fil-Am players.

Palaro moved to June 2-8

PHILIPPINE Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain yesterday said this year's Palarong Pambansa to be hosted by Naga City has been moved to June 2-8 to give organizers more time to prepare.

Buhain said the new schedule is meant to ensure smooth staging of the Palaro. The original date was set for May 26-June 2, but Education Secretary Raul Roco requested for the postponement.

Ateneo wins, grabs PBL top spot

GAMES TODAY (Makati Coliseum)
4 p.m.—Montaña vs ICTSI-La Salle
6 p.m.—Shark Energy vs John-O

By Dennis U. Eroa

ATENEO-Hapee-Negros Navigation lost its big men to injuries but kept its fighting heart to escape with an 85-76 victory over newcomer John-O, seizing the solo lead in the PBL Chairman's Cup Monday night at the Pasig Sports Center.

Power-playing Enrico Villanueva, enjoying one of his finest conferences, and backup center Paolo Bugia missed the entire second half due to injuries, but the Blue Eagles gained the needed spark from a pair of determined guards and a Fil-Am banger.

The 5-foot-8 Cruz, who formerly played for multi-titled Welcoat Paints, starred in a pivotal 11-0 salvo which broke the back of the Juzzers five minutes left in the game. Cruz finished with 16 points and grabbed a game-high 13 rebounds as he conspired with Rich Alvarez in hammering the boards.

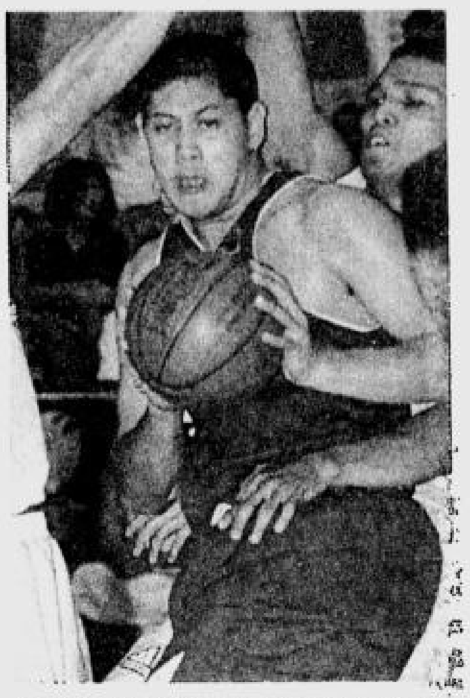
Shooter Magnum Membrere and Fil-Am Jeremy Anicete also iced Ateneo's win by burying two free throws each which sealed the final tally.

Ateneo upped its win-loss record to 5-1. Kutitap and ICTSI-La Salle share second place with 5-2 records. John-O absorbed its third straight loss and dropped to 4-3, same card of Ana Freezers.

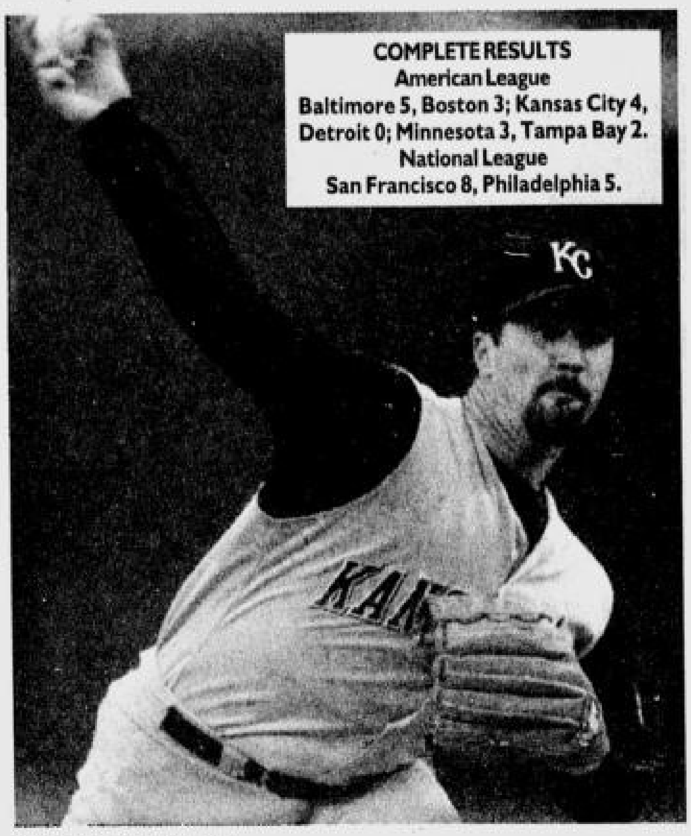
"We're a bit lucky after losing Bugia and Villanueva," said Ateneo-Hapee-Negros Navigation mentor Joel Banal. Villanueva suffered from a mild sprain after landing on a Juzzers' foot, while the 6-foot-6 Bugia hurt his right knee, which may sideline him for six months.

Villanueva saw action for 16 minutes but managed to score 14 points on top of nine rebounds. Despite missing its big men, Ateneo ruled the boards, 62-46.

Meanwhile, PBL games resume today at the Makati Coliseum with ICTSI-La Salle battling skidding Montaña Jewels at 4 p.m. Shark meets John-O at 6 p.m.



VILLANUEVA protects the ball in this file photo.



COMPLETE RESULTS
American League
Baltimore 5, Boston 3; Kansas City 4, Detroit 0; Minnesota 3, Tampa Bay 2.
National League
San Francisco 8, Philadelphia 5.

SHUTOUT ARTIST
Kansas City Royals' Jeff Suppan pitches against the Detroit Tigers in the second inning of his two-hitter Monday in Detroit. Suppan walked one and struck out three in his third career shutout and 10th complete game. Kansas won, 4-0. AP

CDO racers sweep Challenge

BUKIDNON—Albert Monte de Ramos led Cagayan de Oro off the Road Club's sweep of the second leg of the 2002 Caltex delo 4x4 Extreme Challenge at the treacherous natural terrain of Mangima here.

Exploiting his familiarity with the track for the past four years, the 30-year-old De Ramos again proved himself the master of the "Mangima Off the Road Challenge" as he posted the best combined time of 14:40.51.

His teammates, Richard Emano and Agustin Macmang, finished second and third in the event presented by Caltex Delo and supported by Procter and Gamble Philippines through the National Association of Filipino Off-Roaders Inc. (Nasfor).

Emano registered a total time of 14:59.46 while Macmang, who posted the best time of 2:33 in Track B, finished the race in 15:13.30.

A priest, Fr. Junjie Edullantes of Unlimited Off-Road Dipolog, took fourth place overall with 15:40.27 while Sonny Aparente of GenSan 4-Wheelers wound up fifth with 15:40.37.

"I really prayed to God *na manalo* and I thanked Him for granting this wish," said De Ramos.

Completing the top finishers of the race are 4x4 Fun Club's Bambi Bernales (16:04.58) and Bing Moreno (16:59.80), GenSan's Bobit Espanola (19:48.34), Bukidnon OffRoad's Johnny Albarence (19:59.19) and De Quatro Zamboanga's Eddie Boy Escudero (25:39.36).

SPORTSWATCH

RP cyclists dominate festival

THREE members of the Philippine National Team dominated the recent three-day Pangasinan Cycling Tour happened last April 27-29. Arnel Quirimit of Pozurrobio won the 130-km. first leg, dubbed as the Mayor Louie Agbayani Cycling Classic, while teammate Santi Barnachea won the 171-km second leg, also called the Fourth Engineer Fidel D. Ginez Classic. Former Marlboro Tour of the Philippines winner Warren Davadilla won the Alaxan Pista'y Dayat Festival, the third and final leg. The cycling festival was organized by the National Cycling Federation of the Philippines Inc. Former Tour of Luzon titleholder Jess Garcia was race director. *Emil Cabrera*

UPIS alumni golf tourney at Langer

THE UP Integrated School Class '77, as part of its silver jubilee celebration, will host the annual UPIS Alumni Open Golf Tournament on May 15 at 7 a.m. at the Langer Course of the Riviera Golf and Country Club in Silang, Cavite. Alumni, faculty and friends of the UP Elementary School, UP High School, UP Preparatory School and UP Integrated school are enjoined to support the tournament which seeks to generate funds for the upgrading of the school's libraries and facilities. Tournament fee is P2,500. Players who pay their tickets on or before April 30 will get a P500 discount. Interested parties may contact Ms Leah Navarro at 0917-8981957, lawyer Chicho Bawagan at 0917-5412907 or lawyer Egay Tordesillas at egaytee@yahoo.com.

Checkmate resumes classes May 3

MILO Checkmate resumes its summer offering in Metro Manila starting May 3 at three regular venues. 1. St. Benedict College in Alabang Hills—7:30-11:30 a.m. HS Student Lounge; 2. Rizal Memorial Sports Complex in Vito Cruz, Manila—9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Ninoy Aquino Stadium VIP Room;3. Greenhills Shopping Center in Ortigas Ave.—2:30-6:30 p.m. at 2/F Centermall-Bangketa Sale. Enrollees at SBC may register at the cashier's office or may proceed at the venue site of their choice before the clinic starts or call Metropolitan Chess Club at 826-8560 or 0916-6521069.

Adaza reaches 16-under 2nd round

DAVAO City's Patricia Adaza and Ara Micayabas scored contrasting wins yesterday to reach the girls' 16-under second round in the first Enervon Tablet International Junior Tennis Challenge at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. Adaza defeated Anna Buenviaje, 6-4, 6-1, to advance against third seed Katrina Pamintuan while Micayabas blasted Kristel Co, 6-0, 6-0, to advance against second seed Ivy de Castro. Joy Cabisong downed Jin Querubin, 6-3, 6-3, while Jessica Ocena, Stephanie Tecson and Susana Onglatco won by default to also earn second-round slots in this Group 1 event sponsored by Dunlop balls.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1992, Rikki DyLiacco clocked 36.03 to capture the fifth leg of the Race Motor Sports Club Shell TMO Slalom Showdown at the San Fernando, La Union airport. Also today in 1992, the Milo BEST boys cagers beat the 'Rockets' of the US, 64-45, to win the 10th annual Las Vegas Basketball Eastern Classic in Nevada.

Team Globe drivers shine

SUBIC—Team Globe drivers, led by two-time champion Jody Coseteng, made their presence felt anew in the third and fourth rounds of the Blaze super saloon category in the SVI-Petron Grand Prix at the Subic International Raceway here Sunday.

Coseteng, one of only two drivers who won the back-to-back titles in local circuit racing, flaunted anew the power of his newly acquired Honda SIR to complete his second straight sweep in this prestigious 14-part series organized by Sports Values Inc. (SVI) in cooperation with Petron.

The 39-year-old Coseteng also swept the opening rounds held during the "Asian Festival of Speed" last April 14.

Carlos Anton of Gulf Oil-MP Turbo and Kookie Ramirez of Globe-Petron finished runner-up to Coseteng in the third and fourth rounds, respectively.

"I'm satisfied with my performance this weekend. The car is really in good condition right now," said Coseteng, who is also being supported by Autoplus, Caltex and Red Horse.

Rounding out the top five finishers in the third round were Miguel Ramirez of Globe-Petron and defending champion Ferdinand Ong of Rota-Speedwelle-Outlast Battery.

Mike Aguilar of Velocity Motors wound up third in the fourth round.

Sharing the limelight were Tom Pastor of team TEC and Mike Anton of Quezon City Autosport, who split top honors in the Class B; and Francis Godinez, who dominated Class C.

Turkish leaders support F1 bid

ANKARA, Turkey —Turkish political and business leaders pledged support Monday for the country's efforts to host a Formula One race, saying a successful bid could boost the country's troubled economy.

Turkey's auto sports federation wants to bring a Formula One grand prix to Turkey by 2005, a target that the sport's chief executive Bernie Ecclestone, who visited Turkey last month, says is achievable if authorities can complete work on a new track by then.

The federation held a meeting with government officials and business leaders Monday to seek financial support for the project, which will cost an estimated $60 million.

Federation chief Mumtaz Tahincioglu said there was "huge support for Turkey" within the sport, but added that the project "needs the government's backing."

Culture Minister Istemihan Talay pledged government support for the bid, and said he hoped the project would "be brought about as soon as possible."

Turkey faces tough competition from several other countries keen to lure Formula One. Moscow is set to host a race in 2004, while China, Bahrain and Egypt are also interested. **AP**

80 fights slated in 4-cock derby

LAS PIÑAS Cockpit's fund-raising affair, the much-awaited special 4-cock derby, gets going at 7 p.m. today with Pagcor and Casino Filipino-Parañaque as sponsors.

A cash prize of P400,000 await the champion/s plus two refrigerators and casino chips from CF-Parañaque. Paying patrons will also receive casino chips, said CF-Parañaque marketing manager Roberto Castro Jr.

Proceeds of the derby will be donated to the clean and green project of Mayor Nene Aguilar. Co-host of the derby is Emmet San Juan of Galleros de Manila.

LPC manager Alex said more than 80 fights hve been lined-up. For inquiries, contact 873-1040 or 871-4343.

Tempera euthanized due to laminitis

LEXINGTON, Kentucky—Tempera, the 2-year-old champion filly owned by Sheik Mohammed's Godolphin Racing, was euthanized after failing to recover from a fever.

The filly was preparing for the Kentucky Oaks at Churchill Downs before developing a fever on Friday. She was sent to the veterinary clinic in Lexington on Saturday and euthanized Sunday night. The filly had an inflammation of the foot, which causes problems with the flow of blood, assistant trainer Tom Albertrani said.

Albertrani said Tempera's condition worsened Saturday when he noticed "she just wasn't right in her stall."

The filly was taken 113 kilometers (70 miles) to Lexington, and her condition did not improve.

Tempera, along with stablemate Imperial Gesture and Kentucky Derby contender Essence of Dubai, was shipped to Kentucky from Dubai earlier this month. The daughter of A.P. Indy, Tempera won three of seven career starts, including the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies last October at Belmont Park. In her last race, she won the UAE Oaks at Nad al Sheba in Dubai. **AP**

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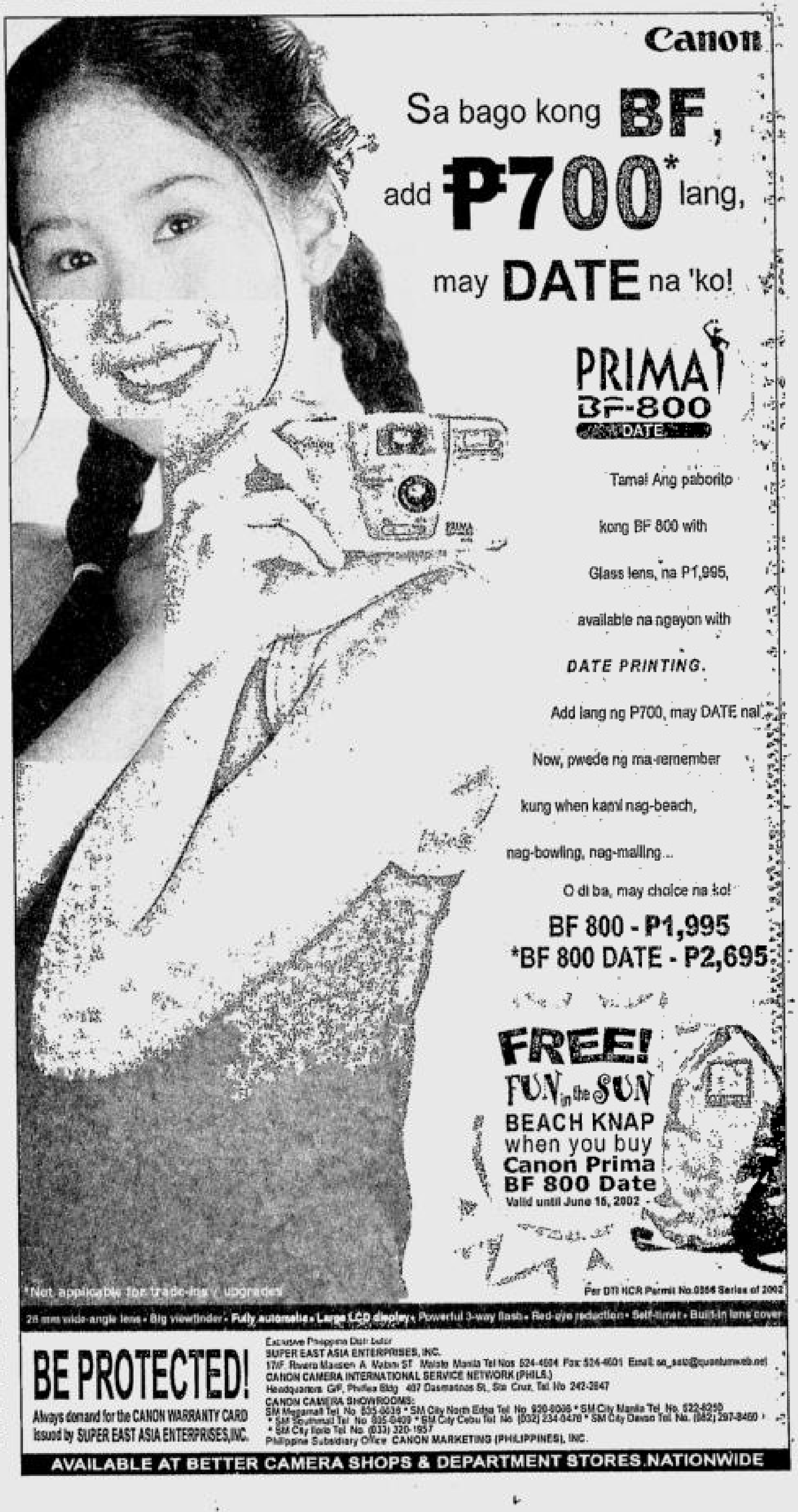

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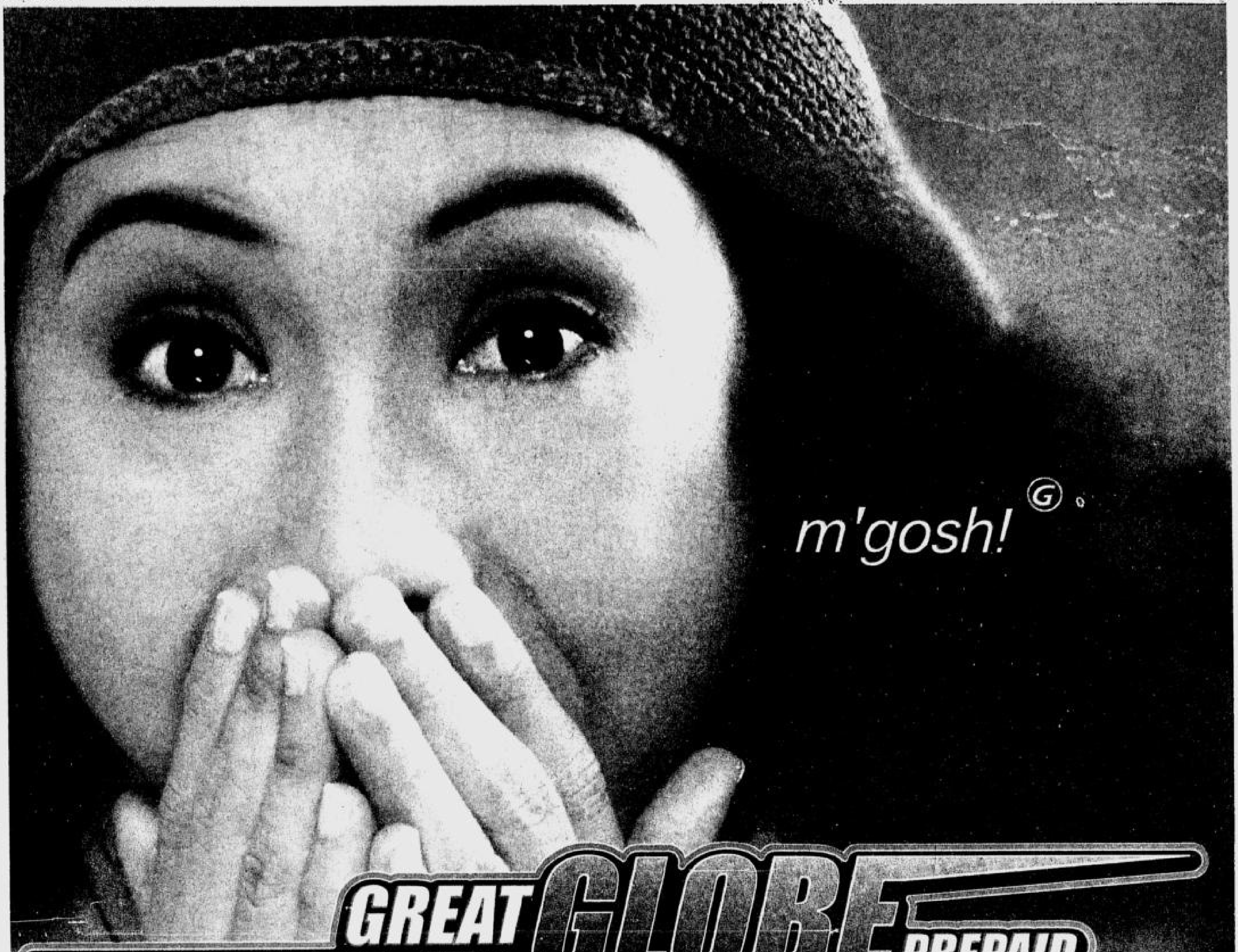

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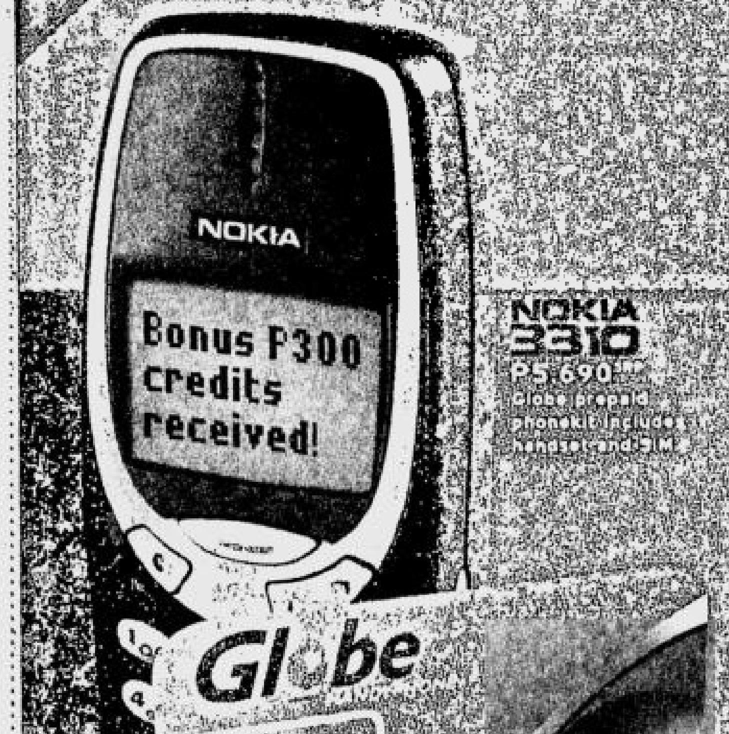

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Appeal for peace in Manila

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza appealed for a peaceful but meaningful commemoration today of Labor Day and the 1st anniversary of "Edsa Tres" as he announced he issued rally permits to KMU for 3-5 p.m., Liwasang Bonifacio and Department of Labor and Employment; People's Movement Against Poverty, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Chino Roces Bridge; Pumiglas, 2-5 p.m., Liwasang Bonifacio; and National Confederation of Labor, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, Plaza Dilao. *Jerome Aning*

Robbers shoot fighting cabbie

THREE holdup men shot taxi driver Ignacio Garlan, 32, in the face and head when he fought them off, but he was able to grab the gun of one man and jumped out of the cab, in Las Piñas Monday night. Police arrested suspects Antonio Acot, 42, and Rolando Yancha, 27. Garlan was in serious condition in a Las Piñas hospital. *Christian V. Esguerra*

MMDA 'sleeping with the enemy'

Abalos should implement law, says Greenpeace

By Alcuin Papa

THE ENVIRONMENTAL group Greenpeace yesterday accused the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) of "sleeping with the enemy" after the agency said it was negotiating a compromise deal with garbage contractors Jancom and its rival, Pro-Environment.

"Why is the MMDA now taking up the cudgels for its opponent in a long-drawn court battle? The stance taken by the chairman will only embolden vendors of so-called solutions who want a piece of Metro Manila's garbage pie," Greenpeace Southeast Asia Toxics campaigner Francis de la Cruz said.

"Sadly, Chairman Abalos appears to be the one rolling out the red carpet for them," he added. "The garbo-politics of MMDA stinks."

In a statement, the group said MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. should instead focus on implementing Republic Act No. 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, which calls for waste segregation, recycling and the construction of a materials recovery facility in every barangay.

De la Cruz accused Jancom of "merely maximizing the business potential emanating from the ruling by the Third Division of the Supreme Court.

MMDA SLEEPING /A26

Man arrested for stealing lampposts

By Jerome Aning

JOBLESS Arnold Pinuela of Tondo, Manila hit on the not-so-bright idea of stealing street lampposts in the city and selling them for scrap. Police yesterday morning arrested Pinuela, 28, just as he was cutting with a saw a Spanish-style post near the Buddhist Temple at the corner of Luzon and P. Algue streets in Tondo.

Pinuela, of a slum community in Estero de Magdalena, Tondo, told police it was the second post he stole in the city. He said he sold the first post, which weighed about nine kilos, for about P30 per kilo to a junk shop.

The post, made of aluminum and zinc and worth P15,000, was among those installed by the city government around places of worship in the city as part of Mayor Lito Atienza's "Buhayin ang Maynila" program, police said.

"We worked hard to beautify Manila while you have done nothing but destroy and steal," an angry Atienza told Pinuela when the suspect was presented to him yesterday morning.

WAZZZZUP ?
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SPIDERGOBLIN2
SPIDER-MAN TRIVIA
SMART Simply Amazing!
MARVEL
CINEMA
Information Gateway

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OPENS IN THEATERS EVERYWHERE ON MAY 3
MTRCB Rating: GP
www.sony.com/Spider-Man

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To join, key in **JOIN CINEMA** and send to **239**.
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Logos*	LOGO <keyword> and send to 239
Group graphic keywords	GROUP SPIDER and send to 239
Group graphics*	GROUP <keyword> and send to 239
Picture message keywords	PIC SPIDER and send to 239
Picture messages*	PIC <keyword> and send to 239
Screen saver keywords	SAVER SPIDER and send to 239
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Logos, group graphics, picture messages and screen savers are P12.00 each.
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For more info, key in SPIDER and send to 239.

Test yourself on how well you know the webcrawler.
Receive a question based on the movie, key in the correct info and send it to 239.
To play, key in **PLAY SPIDERTRIVIA** and send to **239**.
To answer the questions, key in the number <1, 2, 3, or 4> corresponding to your choice and send to **239**.
Note: If you're playing a SMART Cinema Club game, quit first before you start a new game. To quit a game, key in QUIT and send to 239.

Sample trivia question:
Where was Peter Parker when he was bitten by a mutant spider?
1. At the zoo
2. Cleaning the attic
3. On a fieldtrip
4. At the science laboratory

Note: All SMART Cinema Club Spider-Man services are available until October 15, 2002 only.

Questions? Comments? Concerns? Call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111 or text us at 888 (P1.00 per message sent in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation), e-mail us at customercare@smart.com.ph or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

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See flyers for more details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1426. Series of 2002.

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SCRATCHA NUMBA

Promo period is from March 16 - June 15, 2002 • Per DTI-NCR Permit no. 0245 Series of 2002 • See flyers for details.

CALTEX What Drives You

40 Nayon workers face raps

By Christian V. Esguerra

NAYONG Pilipino executive director Charito Planas yesterday said only 19 out of 59 employees are assured of receiving separation benefits with the impending demolition of the theme park.

The remaining 40 employees are facing criminal and administrative charges before the Office of the Ombudsman and so they could not be given a clearance for the release of their benefits, according to Planas.

The charges came after the employees allegedly duped the Social Security System into releasing their sickness benefits although they actually came to work and were not sick, she said.

Of the 59 employees, 27 were charged administratively while the rest were facing both administrative and criminal charges, she said.

Her announcement is expected to anger further the employees who have been accusing the Nayon management of ignoring their welfare when it ceded 8.6 hectares of the theme park to the Manila International Airport Authority.

The employees are demanding a compensation package equivalent to their two-month salary multiplied with the total number of years they worked at the theme park.

Planas said that the law provides for a base amount representing only a month's salary, but that she is working to raise it to one and a half months.

"They should not vent their ire on me," she said. "They need me and I'm helping them."

MMDA sleeping . . .

From page A25

The Supreme Court had ruled with finality that Jancom's contract with the government was "valid and perfected" and could be implemented if signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo. But Ms Arroyo had refused to sign the contract, saying it was "flawed."

Greenpeace said Jancom's proposed 25-year build-operate-transfer (BOT) scheme would reap for the garbage firm an annual gross income of about $21 million at the $19 tipping fee per ton for 3,000 tons of garbage from Metro Manila.

Abalos had said segregation would only account for about 30 percent of Metro Manila's garbage and that a "permanent solution" was still needed.

Jancom and the MMDA had been locked in a five-year legal tussle over the $350-million garbage deal. Three officials of the Ramos government had signed the deal, but Ramos himself had not. Instead, he endorsed the contract to then president-elect Joseph Estrada who also did not sign the deal.

Late last year, the MMDA awarded a contract to Pro-Environment to process 2,000 tons of Metro Manila's garbage. But Malacañang has yet to approve this.

Metro Manila produces at least 6,000 tons of garbage a day, according to studies.

GMA: Nothing is too small

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

IT'S not everyday that you hear this sort of successful rescue story.

It's what you may call a quickie job.

But, no, it did not involve the police or any armed force.

There was no soundless surveillance, no dangerous detective work whatsoever.

The culprit is a widespread evil the world has been vainly trying to eradicate.

It's too well-known all over here: Poverty.

It struck with impunity, victimizing a luckless woman who called herself a true-blue Pampangueña, "just like President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo."

Adelaida G. Maniago, 38 and mother to three boys, was driven away from her birthplace in Bamban by raging lava following the explosion of Mt. Pinatubo.

She was next resettled in San Vicente, Tarlac in a simple house that's now in danger of being taken away by a bank.

* * *

The bigger, more horrifying problem, she cried, was her youngest son who had a kidney transplant last year.

The new kidney has not been functioning well.

The borrowed, uncooperative organ has been giving the poor boy hell.

In fact, Paolo would turn totally alien each time he would suffer an attack.

Whenever the poor boy suffered fits, he would convulse, and his face would tighten into a greenish death mask.

Naturally, the helpless mother would run out to beg and borrow.

But she could only run too far.

She had predictably run out of people to turn to.

Now at her wit's end, she decided to write the INQUIRER.

You've probably come across her tearful story.

She sent in an urgent plea, addressed to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, which was published here last week.

The exact date was April 23. She begged for a reply.

* * *

That very same day, we received this text message from Ninoy Aquino International Airport General Manager Edgardo Manda: "2day our field staf wil start locating d person. Wil keep u postd."

You bet the distress call had reached shore.

Anyway, to repeat, the poor mother had borrowed P300,000 for his son's operation.

She had used her simple house as collateral.

There was this nagging fear of being booted out of their small house.

She kept wondering how she could care for her sick son out in the streets? (*"Takot na takot po akong ipagtabuyan sa aming tahanan ng mga taong aming pinagkakautangan."*)

She said she was willing to personally talk to anyone to explain her case.

Begged the poor victim: *"Alam ko pong malaki ang inyong magagawang tulong upang maipaabot sa ating Mahal na Pangulo, kapwa ko Kapampangan, ang aking karaingan, at kung mamarapatin at hindi malaking abala ay handa akong makipag-usap kaninuman upang lubos ninyo akong maunawaan."*

She said she would walk all the way from Tarlac to Malacañang for the President to hear her plea.

* * *

She didn't have to.

Last Friday, Adelaida Maniago was on the phone. She was crying.

Thank you, she sobbed from the airport office of manager Manda.

Her prayers had been heard. She had been found by the staff of Mr. Manda, who got direct instructions from the President to extend immediate assistance to the distressed victim.

Before that teary, thankful call, Mr. Manda sent us this text message: "We found Adelaida. Wer raising money 2 buy medicines nided coz of life tretening condition of patient. She's askd 2 go 2 bahay ugnayan malacañang."

Actually, there was a two-pronged effort to locate the helpless mother in Tarlac.

But when barangay officials from Region 3, upon instructions from Malacañang, reached her place in San Vicente, Adelaida Maniago was already in the office of Mr. Manda.

There, she was given the full sum to buy his son a 10-day supply of medicines.

* * *

They would take it from there, said Mr. Manda, sounding both fulfilled and relieved.

"We would extend all the support we can, but we would also like to make sure that she keeps her dignity," he explained.

A trusted action officer of the President, he assured that the assistance would go beyond the medical needs of the kidney transplant patient.

For example, the eldest son of the poverty-stricken mother would be given a job at the airport.

The second son would be put in school.

They would also arrange a payment scheme with the bank.

Adelaida Maniago may never get the chance to personally thank Malacañang, but she swore she has realized how sincere the President is in fighting this lonely war against poverty.

Her rescue is very insignificant considering how raging poverty has been eating away at the lives and values of our distressed countrymen.

But as the Chinese poet put it, a long journey starts with a small step.

Nothing should be too small for it to be considered a total waste of time.

1 killed, 8 injured in North expressway accident

PLARIDEL, Bulacan—A 13-year-old boy was killed while eight other commuters were injured when their vehicles collided on the North Luzon Expressway in Barangay Lalangan here on Tuesday.

Police said Robert Francis Magat, 13, of Minalin, Pampanga, died on the way to the hospital.

Reports from the Philippine National Construction Corp. said Magat and six of his relatives were on board a Kia Ceres van bound for Metro Manila when a northbound 10-wheel truck swerved into their lane and hit the van.

Injured were Magat's relatives Rea Policarpio, 25; Celina Policarpio, 4; Michael Policarpio, 3; Elena Serrano, 27; Oscar Lela, 33; and Eumar Serrano, 2; and truck passengers Ricky Baltazar, 29, and Aurelio Apostol, 28. They were taken to the Bulacan Provincial Hospital in Malolos. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

May 2002
Promo of the Month
May 1-31, 2002

Fiesta Special

Price-Off Up To 10% Discount On Participating Products

	Reg. Price	Pay only
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COMBANTRIN SUSP 125MG/ 5ML 10ML	89.50	80.50
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COMBANTRIN TAB 125MG	15.80	14.25
COMBANTRIN TAB 250MG	30.10	27.00
Tab: Oxantel 100mg, pyrantel embonate 100mg. Susp: Oxantel 20mg, pyrantel embonate 20mg.		
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Mg(OH)2 400mg, Al(OH)3 400mg, simethicone 30mg		
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• GELTAZINE CAP	12.00	10.80
Al(OH)3 equiv to 2.18 mmol Al; Mg(OH)2, Mg carbonate equiv to 0.99 mmol Mg.		
• NOVALUZID SUSP 10ML	20.25	19.25

	Reg. Price	Pay only
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NEXIUM TAB 40MG	77.75	73.85
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KREMIL-S SUSP 120ML	67.00	63.65
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KREMIL-S TAB	3.00	2.85
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Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0331 S. 2002

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9	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
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SM CITY FAIRVIEW
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2	S2PID LUV
3	I AM SAM
4	MONTE CRISTO
5	SNOW DOGS
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8	ROLLERBALL
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10	BLADE 2
11	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
12	BUKANG BIBIG

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4	ROLLERBALL
5	MONTE CRISTO
6	SHOWTIME
7	BUKANG BIBIG
8	BLADE 2
9	VIDEOKE KING
10	VIDEOKE KING
11	S2PID LUV
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5	I AM SAM
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7	SHOWTIME
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9	VIDEOKE KING
10	S2PID LUV
11	VIDEOKE KING
12	BUKANG BIBIG

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
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1	I AM SAM
2	SCORPION KING
3	BUKANG BIBIG
4	VIDEOKE KING
5	VIDEOKE KING
6	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
7	SCORPION KING
8	ROLLERBALL
9	CLOSED
10	CLOSED
11	CLOSED
12	CLOSED

SM SOUTHMALL
8008888

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2	SCORPION KING
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5	S2PID LUV
6	I AM SAM
7	VIDEOKE KING
8	SCORPION KING
9	ROLLERBALL
10	BUKANG BIBIG

SM CITY CEBU
2313878

1	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
2	HART'S WAR
3	BLADE 2
4	TIME MACHINE
5	S2PID LUV
6	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
7	VIDEOKE KING
8	SCORPION KING

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	HART'S WAR
2	CLOSED
3	TIME MACHINE
4	BLADE 2
5	VIDEOKE KING
6	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
7	CLOSED
8	SCORPION KING

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	SHOWTIME
2	SCORPION KING
3	SNOW DOGS
4	S2PID LUV
5	DEEP END
6	VIDEOKE KING

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
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2	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
3	VIDEOKE KING
4	S2PID LUV

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1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
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2	SCORPION KING
3	BUKANG BIBIG
4	VIDEOKE KING

SM CITY DAVAO
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2	JOHN Q
3	VIDEOKE KING
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3
4

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3	I AM SAM
4	SCORPION KING

G4 (GLORIETTA 4)

1	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
2	SHOWTIME
3	THX SCORPION KING 12:30 pm/ 2:30/ 4:30/ 6:30/ 8:30/ 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS
4	ROLLER BALL
5	HELP! I'M A FISH
6	I AM SAM
7	SNOW DOGS

GB1 (GREENBELT 1)

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2	SCORPION KING
3	I AM SAM
4	Onstage MARTIN NIEVERA BACK ONSTAGE May 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25, 31 & June 1

ATC (ALABANG TOWN CENTER)

1	THX SCORPION KING
2	I AM SAM
3	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
4	VIDEOKE KING
5	ROLLER BALL

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5 GOLD (DOLBY)	I AM SAM
6 GOLD (SDDS)	SNOW DOGS
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
8	VIDEOKE KING
9	VIDEOKE KING
10	BLADE 2

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3	VIDEOKE KING
4	BUKANG BIBIG
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7	
8	

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A	VIDEOKE KING

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2	BUKANG BIBIG
3	SCORPION KING
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

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3	
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5	BUKANG BIBIG
6	SCORPION KING
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8 (SDDS)	ROLLERBALL
9 (DOLBY)	I AM SAM

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2	

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2	SCORPION KING

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1	
2	

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2 (DTS)	VIDEOKE KING
3 (DOLBY)	SCORPION KING
4	SHOWTIME

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4	RETURN TO NEVERLAND

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2	SCORPION KING
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4	SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
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2	ICE AGE
3 (DOLBY)	SCORPION KING
4 (DTS)	TIME MACHINE

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

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3	HINDI SA PILIT
4 (DTS)	VIDEOKE KING

Lianas MovieCity
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4	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
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Olivarez Tri-Cinema
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2	VIDEOKE KING
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1	
2	
3	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL

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2	
3	

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2 (DTS)	SCORPION KING

Fourstep
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1	

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	S2PID LUV
2	VIDEOKE KING
3	SCORPION KING

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	SCORPION KING
2	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
3	HART'S WAR
4	VIDEOKE KING

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	DEEP END
2	S2PID LUV
3 (DTS)	SCORPION KING
4	SHOWTIME

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

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633-7641 loc. 279

1 THX	SCORPION KING
2	SCORPION KING
3	HELP! I AM A FISH
4	I AM SAM
5	VIDEOKE KING
6	ROLLERBALL
7	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
8	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
9	SNOW DOGS
10	SHOWTIME

Ermita
536-7809-12

1	SCORPION KING
2	BLADE 2
3	SHOWTIME
4	HELP! I AM A FISH
5	VIDEOKE KING
6	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
7	I AM SAM

Metro East -
Marcos hway 682-8193 / 8280

1	I AM SAM
2	SHOWTIME
3	SCORPION KING
4	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
5	SNOW DOGS
6	VIDEOKE KING
7	ROLLERBALL
8	BLADE 2

Novaliches
935-3229-30

1	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
2	ROLLER BALL
3	I AM SAM
4	SCORPION KING
5	VIDEOKE KING
6	E.T.
7	RUSH HOURS
8	IKAW LANG HANGGANG NGAYON

Imus
471-8188 / [illegible]

1	SCORPION KING
2	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
3	BUKANG BIBIG
4	CROSSROADS
5	VIDEOKE KING
6	VIDEOKE KING

Bacolod
441-0453 / 0459

1	SCORPION KING
2	CROSSROADS
3	TIME MACHINE
4	ICE AGE
5	S2PID LUV
6	GOOD ADVICE

Iloilo
336-8077-78

1	SCORPION KING
2	BLADE 2
3	VIDEOKE KING
4	TIME MACHINE
5	HART'S WAR
6	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO

Star Mills-
San Fernando, Pamp. 875-1927
961-5318 / 5270

1	VIDEOKE KING
2	SCORPION KING
3	DEEP END
4	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
5	SHOWTIME
6	SCORPION KING

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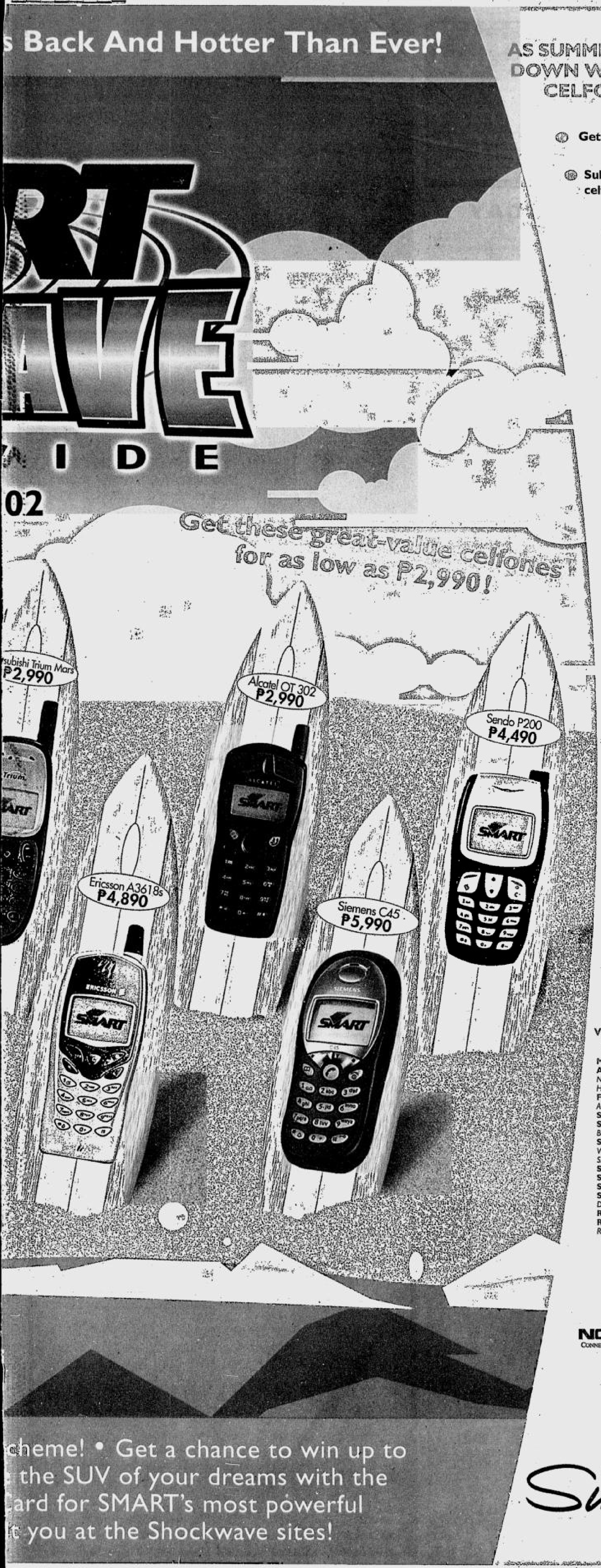
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GOLD Choice (₱1335)	Nokia 8210	
GOLD Select (₱1995)	Nokia 8310	
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see print ad for details
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see print ad for details
Per DTI-NCR Permit # 0519, Series of 2002

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METRO MANILA:
Alabang Town Center (*G/F Rotonda near National Bookstore, G/F New Wing in front of Havin' A Baby, 2/F Hallway - TSI*)
Festival Mall, Alabang (*1/L in front of Auntie Anne's*)
SM Fairview (*LG/F in front of SM ACI*)
SM Megamall (*5/F-TSI, 2/F Bridgeway and 2/F Bldg. A Activity Center*)
SM North EDSA (*UG/F Entrance 5 bet. Watson's and Goldilocks; UG/F City Center Westmall, SM ACI side*)
SM Manila (*LG/F Centermall beside East stairway*)
SM Sucat (*G/F bet. Jollibee & Tokyo Tokyo*)
SM Southmall (*UG/F bet. Kickers & La Pagaya*)
SM Centerpoint (*UG/F Centermall, Delifrance side*)
Robinsons Galleria (*Level 1, EDSA Node*)
Robinsons Place Manila (*Level 1, bet. Red Ribbon and Delifrance*)

LUZON:
Robinsons Place, Imus (*1/L, Activity Area*)
SM Pampanga (*G/F in front of Kenny Rogers*)
SM Bacoor (*UG/F Centermall bet. Pizza Hut and French Baker*)

VISAYAS:
SM Cebu (*LG/F near Supermarket*)
SM Iloilo (*UG/F West Wing bet. National Bookstore and Watson's*)

MINDANAO:
SM Davao (*G/F, Atrium in front of Pizza Hut*)

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	S2PID LUV
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	SCORPION KING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	ROLLERBALL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SCORPION KING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	DEVIL'S MASK
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	I AM SAM
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	SCORPION KING
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	TIKIM / GIRLS
ODEON	VIDEOKE KING
ODEON-2	SCORPION KING
ROBEN	BUKANG BIBIG
TANDEM-1	ITLOG
TANDEM-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
TIMES	BEHIND ENEMY LINES / SUPREME SUNCTIONS
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	BUKANG BIBIG
REMAR	VIDEOKE KING
REMAR-2	BUKANG BIBIG
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	VIDEOKE KING
B	BUKANG BIBIG
C	SCORPION KING
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	I AM SAM
CINEMA-2	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	IKA-7 GLORYA
CINEMA-2	VIDEOKE KING
CINEMA-3	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BUKANG BIBIG
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	E.T.
CINEMA-6	VIDEOKE KING
CINEMA-7	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
CINEMA-8	S2PID LUV
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	ROLLERBALL
CINEMA-12	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
CINEMA-14	I AM SAM
CINEMA-15	VIDEOKE KING
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	SNOW DOGS
CINEMA-2	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-3	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
CINEMA-4	ROLLERBALL
CINEMA-5	SHOWTIME
CINEMA-6	I AM SAM
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

SNOW DOGS - GP 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:30	SCORPION KING - P 13 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00	RETURN TO NEVERLAND - GP 11:40, 1:40, 3:40, 5:40, 7:40, 9:40
HELP! I'M A FISH - GP 12:00, 1:50, 3:45, 5:40, 7:35, 9:30	SHOWTIME - P 13 11:00, 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35, 9:45	I AM SAM - GP 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

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The Ayala Mall Events

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

MAKATI ALABANG CEBU

look who's hanging around Ayala Malls
SPIDER-MAN LIVE!

SPIDERMAN LIVE!

MAKATI
Live Action Show
May 1, 3 & 4 - 2:00pm, 4:00pm & 6:00pm
Glorietta Activity Center
Meet and Greet Schedules
May 1, 3 & 4 at the Cinema Lobby
2:30pm - Greenbelt 1 • 4:30pm - Glorietta 1 • 7:30pm - Glorietta 4

ALABANG
Live Action Show and Meet & Greet Schedules
May 5, 6 & 7 - 11:00am, 3:30pm & 6:30pm
Town Plaza

CEBU
Live Action Show and Meet & Greet Schedules
May 10 & 11 - 3:30pm, 5:30pm & 7:00pm
Activity Center
May 12 - 11:30am, 3:00pm & 6:00pm
Ayala Food and Entertainment Center

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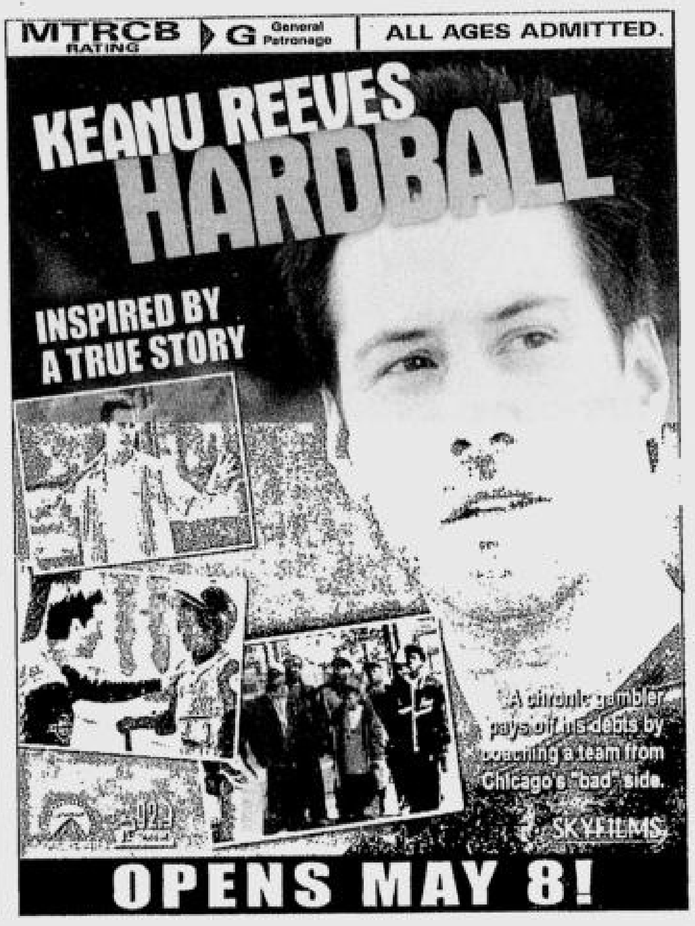
SM MANILA * ROBINSON'S GALLERIA and ROBINSON'S ERMITA

A POTION PUT THEM IN THE OCEAN!
HELP! I'M A FISH
SKYFILMS

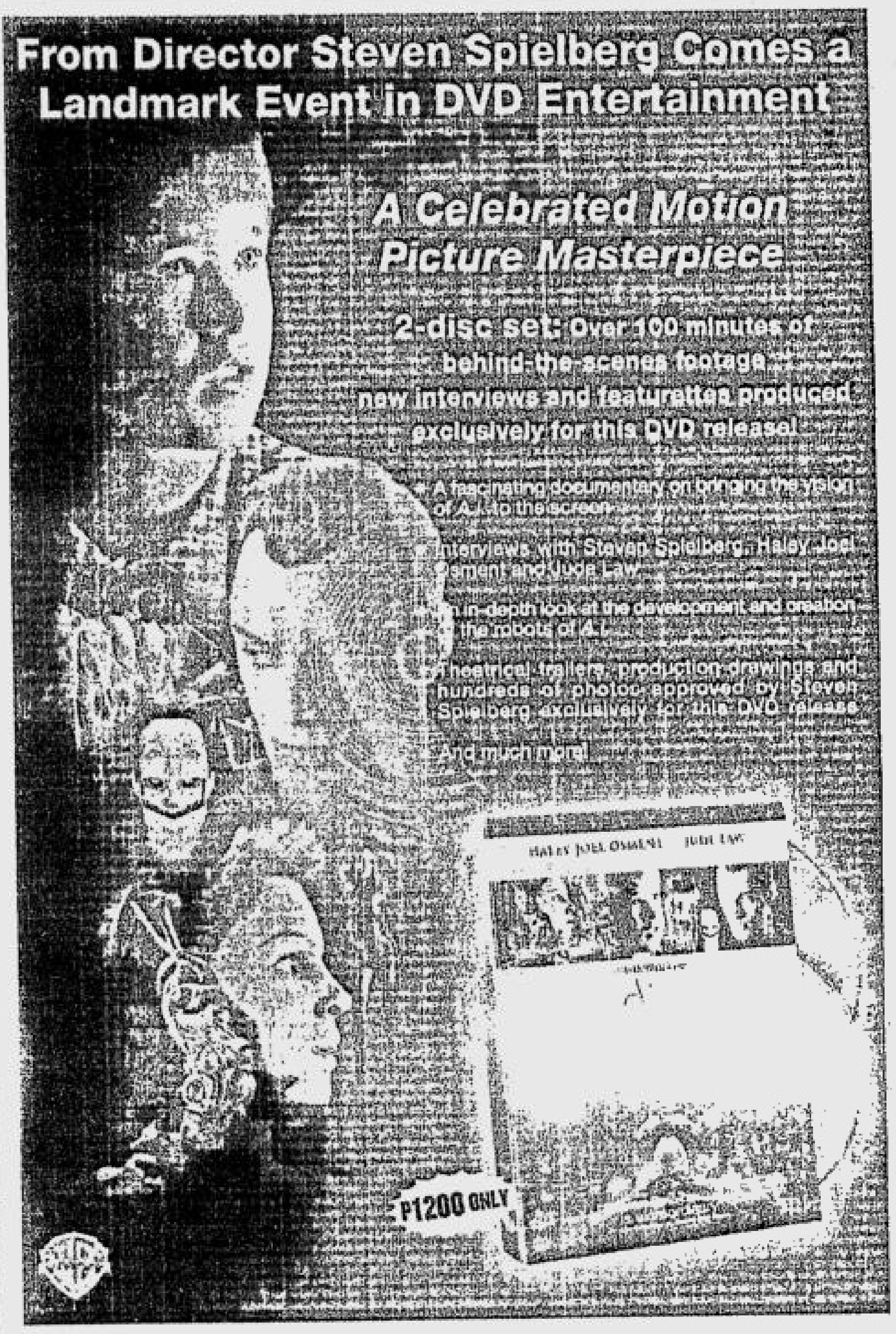
MTRCB RATING ▶G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED

MTRCB RATING ▶G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED.


KEANU REEVES
HARDBALL
INSPIRED BY A TRUE STORY
A chronic gambler pays off his debts by coaching a team from Chicago's "bad" side.
SKYFILMS

OPENS MAY 8!

RELAX & SEE A MOVIE


From Director Steven Spielberg Comes a Landmark Event in DVD Entertainment
A Celebrated Motion Picture Masterpiece
2-disc set: Over 100 minutes of behind-the-scenes footage, new interviews and featurettes produced exclusively for this DVD release!
A fascinating documentary on bringing the vision of A.I. to the screen
Interviews with Steven Spielberg, Haley Joel Osment and Jude Law
An in-depth look at the development and creation of the robots of A.I.
Theatrical trailers, production drawings and hundreds of photos approved by Steven Spielberg exclusively for this DVD release
And much more!
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OPENS MAY 3

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MTRCB RATING ▶G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED

SPIDER-MAN
sony.com/Spider-Man
MARVEL

Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

MTRCB RATING ▶G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED

STAR CINEMA'S 9TH ANNIVERSARY PRESENTATION

ANG PELIKULANG PINOY!

MAKI-AWIT MAKISAMA MAKI-ENJOY

VIDEOKE KING ROBIN PADILLA and CONCERT QUEEN POPS FERNANDEZ

STAR CINEMA PRESENTS
VIDEOKE KING

GRAND OPENING TODAY

Boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: What do you like to read?

Guest: Anything about politics.

Host: Why are you so interested?

Guest: *Siyempre*, newsworthy *ako!*

(Ganoon?)

* * *

Host: How do you keep your cool in the very stressful world of show business?

Guest: From time to time, I meditate.

Host: Where do you find the place quiet enough—?

Guest: I have a room near my garden. It's my inner santotum.

(Your—what?—Oh, your inner sanctum!)

* * *

Host: Will our guest *manghuhula* tell our guest star what her fortune will be like this year?

Manghuhula: This year, *magbo-bomba ang* career *mo!*

(You mean, she'll go bold?)

* * *

Host: You look so much slimmer now. What did you do to lose weight?

Guest: I just decided. I lost weight *kasi nako*-conscious *ako* of what I looks.

(*Ay*, looks!)

* * *

Host: *Na*-witness *mo daw ang* shoot-out? *Ano'ng nangyari?*

Eyewitness: *Sa enkuwentrong nakita ko, unang pumutok yung pulis, tapos pumutok yung* army!

(Nagputukan silang lahat, ganoon?)

* * *

Host: I hear you do a lot of motivational workshops for young people? How effective are they?

Guest: Very effective, especially for young people with low self esteem.

Host: How do you motivate them to like themselves better? For example, I'm the troubled youth, what will you tell me to perk me up?

Guest: "Why are you feeling down? You're great, you don't have to be in vain!"

(That's supposed to be effective?!)

* * *

Host: How close are you to (name of starlet)?

Guest: Very, very close.

Host: Like brother and sister?

Guest: *Ang samahan namin, di lang magkapatid—magpamilya!*

(Di ba, ganoon din yon?)

* * *

Host: The two of you started in show biz at about the same time. How come she's making more movies than you?

Guest: Honestly, it's because she doesn't demure about doing really sexy roles.

(*Ay*, demure!)

* * *

Summer production workshops

THE UP Film Center is offering a Video Animation Workshop for Teens and Adults from May 13 to 24. The workshop is from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., M-F, and is designed for art teachers, artists, aspiring animators and students.

There will also be a Digital Editing Workshop from May 27 to June 7, a course on nonlinear editing using Adobe Premiere 5.1 software.

Ongoing until May 11 is a Basic Video Production Workshop. Call 925-0286.

'High Crimes"

ASHLEY Judd and **Morgan Freeman** liked working together in "Kiss the Girls" so they're costarring again in "High Crimes," a suspense-thriller.

In their new film, Judd is Claire, a high-powered attorney, and she leads an idyllic life with her husband Tom (**Jim Caviezel**), a successful contractor. But a bungled burglary triggers a chain of events that shatters their world.

Soon after the burglary, FBI agents arrest Tom. The shocking change: When Tom was a covert military operative, he murdered civilians in El Salvador, and has been a fugitive for 15 years.

To help save her husband, Claire enlists the services of a "wild card," Charlie Grimes (Freeman), a former military attorney who knows the rules and how they are broken; he relishes the chance to take on the military hierarchy that disgraced him years earlier.

Movies on Cinemax

MONDAY, May 6 at 7:30 a.m., "Bell, Book and Candle." 12:30 p.m., "Crazy in Alabama."

Tuesday, May 7 at 1 p.m., "Scarface." 5:30 p.m., "Caught in the Act."

Wednesday, May 8 at 6:30 a.m., "Being John Malkovich." 10 a.m., "The Collector." 3:30 p.m., "Celebrity Profile: Goldie Hawn." 4:30 p.m., "Angela's Ashes." 3:15 a.m., "The Master of Ballantrae."

Thursday, May 9 at 12 noon, "Steal this Movie." 3:15 p.m., "The Nun's Story." 1:35 a.m., "Psycho."

Friday, May 10 at 8:30 a.m., "The Secret Garden." 9 p.m., "Double Jeopardy."

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
DOLBY DIGITAL
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 SCORPION KING
11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00
P13
CINEMA 2 I AM SAM
11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
GP
Matinee: P80.00 - Screenings before 5:00pm, Monday thru Friday (Free Seating).
Reserved Seating: P120.00 - After 5:00pm; Saturday, Sunday, Holidays.
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MUSIC MUSEUM
MUSIC MUSEUM May 11, 2002 REIGNE ON TOUR (Regine Velasquez) 9:00 pm / May 17, 2002 SIDE A "A Timeless Rendezvous" 9:00 pm
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL: 721-6726 OR 721-0635

'Spider-Man' Tobey Maguire unmasked

From page A32

most important people to me but I'm making that sacrifice. So pack your bags. You're coming."

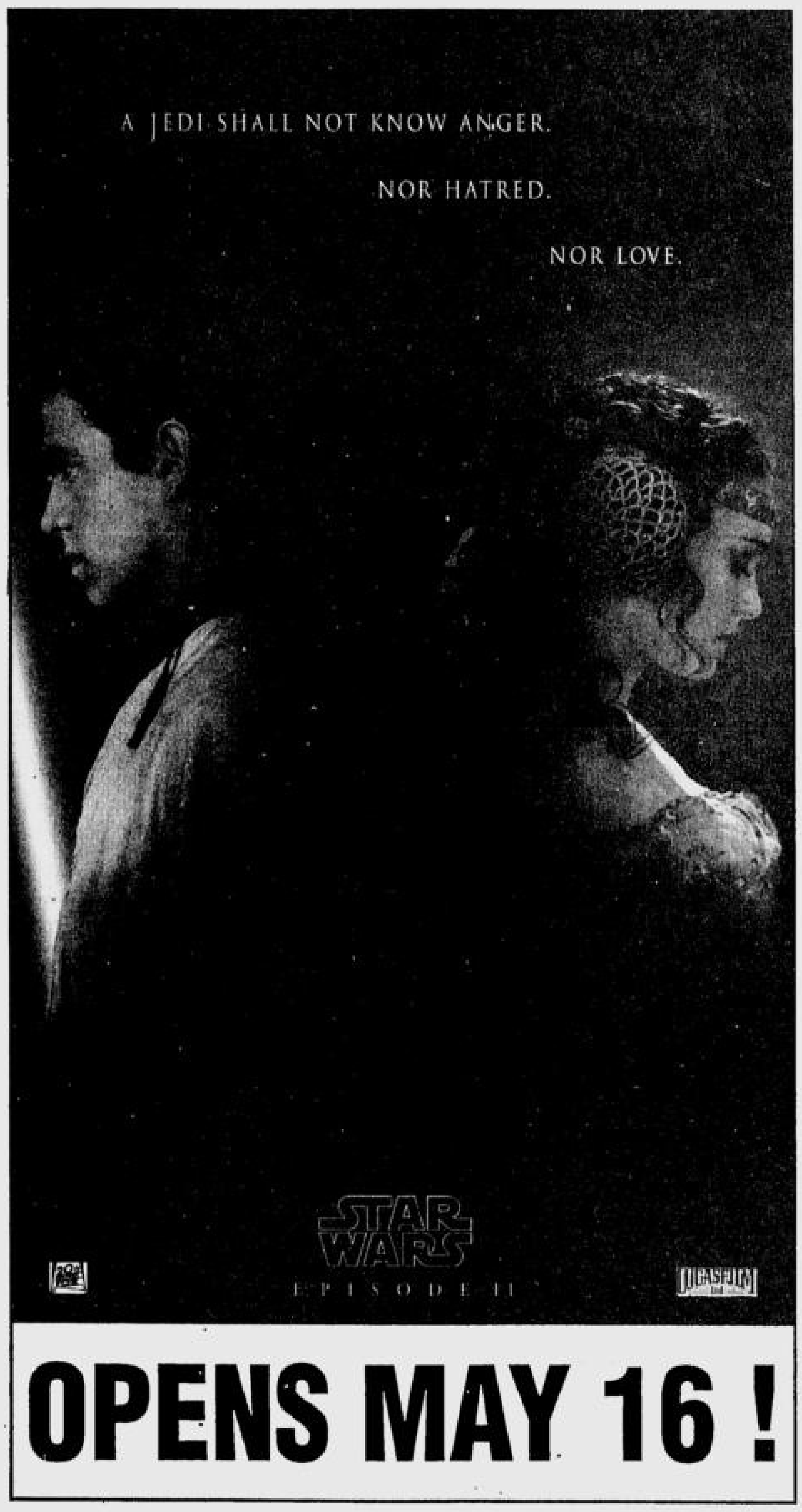
I did and when I got there and read with Kirsten, it was great. We all knew immediately that she's our girl. It's like when you meet somebody and you hit it off right away.

So do you recommend kissing upside down? *(Tobey, hanging upside down as Spider-Man, and Kirsten share what will perhaps be among cinema's most memorable smooches.)*

I don't recommend it because you gotta have lots of people around to help you perform it (laughs). The conditions made it difficult for me to enjoy the kiss although I did sneak some pleasure out of it anyway. I was hanging upside down. It was five in the morning. I had been working all night. It was raining and it was pouring up my nose. I couldn't really breathe through the drenched mask that well and then Kirsten pulled the mask down. I couldn't breathe through my nose. I was kissing her so by then I also couldn't breath through my mouth. So there was nothing else to breathe from. I had to sneak some air out on the side and I said to Kirsten, listen I'm sorry but I'm about to pull off and like (he turns his face sideways and makes a long sucking sound of taking in air through his mouth). Then I held my breath. We kissed for a while too so it was a bit uncomfortable.

How comfortable or uncomfortable were you inside the suit?

I couldn't eat (laughs). The suit is one piece. The zipper's in the back so I can't zip off myself. I can't even put the suit by myself. I had somebody come and help dress me. The zipper broke many times and they had to sew me onto the suit. It was a little process to get in and out. To drink water or to use the restroom took a little while. But I could hear fine. I could breathe fine except in the upside down kissing scene. It was a little hard to breathe because the material was getting drenched. It cuts off a bit of the peripheral vision but it's pretty comfortable. There was a team of people who went through 30 something versions of the suit to make it look good but also to make it very flexible and agile because my character obviously is very acrobatic and needs to move around.



A JEDI SHALL NOT KNOW ANGER.
NOR HATRED.
NOR LOVE.
STAR WARS
EPISODE II
LUCASFILM
OPENS MAY 16 !

FROM THE MAKERS OF THE MUMMY AND THE MUMMY RETURNS!
WARRIOR.
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THE ROCK
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GREENBELT CINEMA
Javier Bardem
Olivier Martinez Andrea Di Stefano
Johnny Depp & Sean Penn
"'Before Night Falls' is rapturous, intoxicating filmmaking!.. Don't miss it! Javier Bardem gives a mesmerizing and inspired performance!"
-Rex Reed, New York Observer
"'Before Night Falls' is a potent, visually stunning masterpiece! Javier Bardem gives a riveting, emotionally - naked performace."
-Guy Flatley, Interview
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R) Strictly For Adults
WARNING! This film is unanimously rated R-18 for its adult thematic content which is Homosexuality and scenarios of NUDITY.
AYALA CINEMAS
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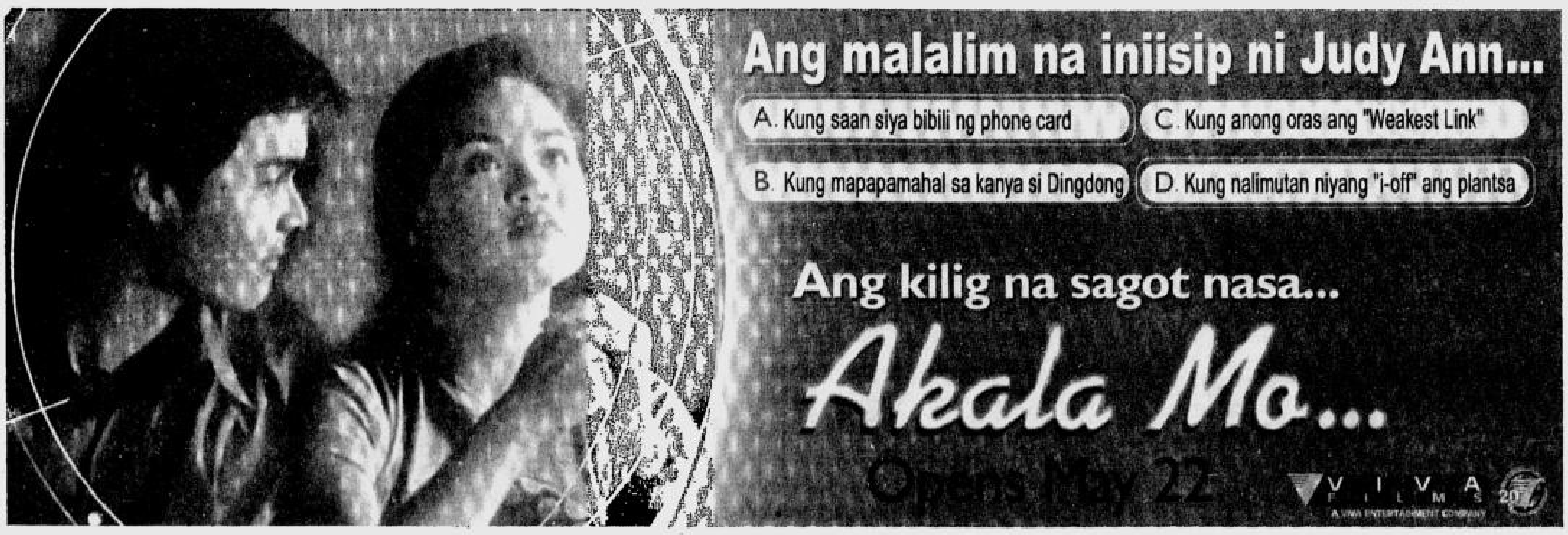
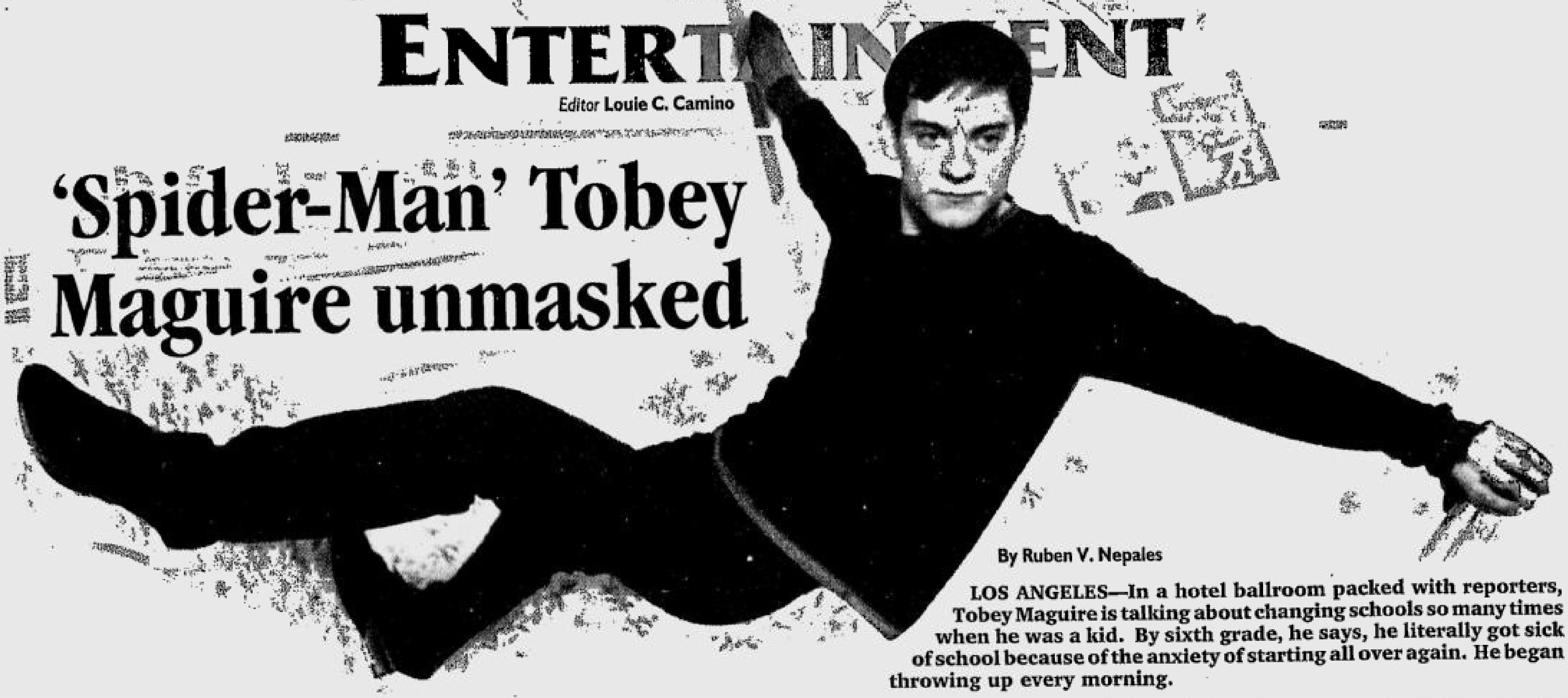


Ang malalim na iniisip ni Judy Ann...
A. Kung saan siya bibili ng phone card
C. Kung anong oras ang "Weakest Link"
B. Kung mapapamahal sa kanya si Dingdong
D. Kung nalimutan niyang "i-off" ang plantsa
Ang kilig na sagot nasa...
Akala Mo...
Opens May 22
VIVA FILMS
20

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

'Spider-Man' Tobey Maguire unmasked



By Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—In a hotel ballroom packed with reporters, Tobey Maguire is talking about changing schools so many times when he was a kid. By sixth grade, he says, he literally got sick of school because of the anxiety of starting all over again. He began throwing up every morning.

This afternoon, sitting before a table groaning with mikes and tape recorders, the star of a $100-million screen adaptation of "Spider-Man" is a bit nervous, yes, but remarkably still for a young actor. It's as if all that moving around in Maguire's childhood has taught him to stay calm and collected, so unlike his peers with their manic expressiveness.

The 26-year-old star behind the first ever film portrayal of the famous webslinging superhero has a slow, deliberate air about him. It is only when Maguire smiles and consequently, his blue eyes light up, that one remembers. This is the actor admired for his expressiveness even without a dialogue, in such acclaimed films as "The Cider House Rules," "Wonder Boys" and "The Ice Storm." "Sensitive," "soulful," "naif" and "soft-spoken" are words that acclaimed filmmakers like Ang Lee, Lasse Halstrom and Curtis Hanson and article writers often drop when describing the 5-foot-8 actor.

Almost all the hot twentysomething actors in Hollywood were reportedly considered to flesh out Marvel Comics' most popular superhero, created by comic book legends Stan Lee and Steve Ditko in 1962. But after having seen director Sam Raimi's much-awaited first installment of a three-part Spider-Man series, one understands the choice.

Have you always wanted to be actor?

I wanted to be a cook, fireman, lawyer or a stuntman. When I was 13, my mother suggested I try acting and I did it because of the circumstances of my life.

When I was growing, we moved around a lot. By 6th grade, I had moved around so much I couldn't even tell you how many schools I have gone through. I was actually getting physically ill going to school. I loved school. I was in honors classes and got straight "A"s. I got along well with kids in school, but it came to a point where it was just very hard to meet people, become friends with them and then have to leave them behind.

Sometimes I changed schools three or four times in a school year so after having abruptly left a school one more time, between 6th grade and a part of 7th grade, I didn't want to do it anymore. At the end of 7th grade, my mother said, "Listen, you have to get serious about your life. You have to focus on school or if you want, you can pursue acting. I'll put you in an acting school."

Why did you move so often?

My mother was 18 and my father was 20 when they had me. They weren't together for very long and they bounced around all over. I lived in different situations. They let me do whatever I wanted to do. I lived with my dad and his brother, my dad and his mom, my dad and a new wife, my dad by himself, my mom, my mom and a boyfriend, my grandma over there, my mom and my aunt, just my aunt, and just my grandma (the assembled journalists can't help but laugh over his breathless recitation of this list).

You are known for appearing in critic favorites like "Wonder Boys" and "The Cider House Rules." What was the drive for you to do this kind of movie? *(The reporter asking this question cites possible motivations like money, etc.)*

You nailed it. Money and chicks (he and the press laugh; his eyes twinkle and he flashes that Cheshire cat smile). For me it was the character. I want to do different kinds of movies. I love film. I love to do event films, films that are scary, romantic comedies, dramas. I want to be a part of making all those kinds of films as long as they involve richly drawn characters, characters that I am interested in playing, relationships. I wouldn't have done this unless all of the elements were there.

How did you get buff for the role?

I trained for five months. I worked out six days a week, from three to four hours a day, using a combination of yoga, gymnastics, martial arts, weight training, high-end cardio, cycling and running. I had a nutritionist who put me on a very specific diet of four to six meals a day. I really had to pay attention to my sleeping and eating patterns. I trained in fight choreography.

You have often mentioned in other interviews about naysayers in your life, people who doubted you. Can you elaborate?

I have no obsession with them. I did this film not solely to prove these naysayers wrong. But I hope I turned around the opinion of some people who doubted that I could pull this off. I hope that they enjoy the film. Everybody who supported me—I hope I did them right, too.

Basically, if I can imagine it, I can do it.

Did sparks really fly between you and Kirsten Dunst when the two of you did a reading for the part?

Yeah, it felt good. We had read and met with a number of girls and there were some girls whom we liked and were considering for the Mary Jane Watson role. For my reading with Kirsten, she happened to be in Berlin that time, filming a movie so we were going to fly all the way there. But I had strep throat. I went to the doctor who said I shouldn't fly or go on the trip. I called Sam and said, I'm not feeling well, I don't want to go and that I have a doctor's note. Sam said, "Look I don't want to leave my kids for the weekend. They're the

SPIDERMAN/ A31

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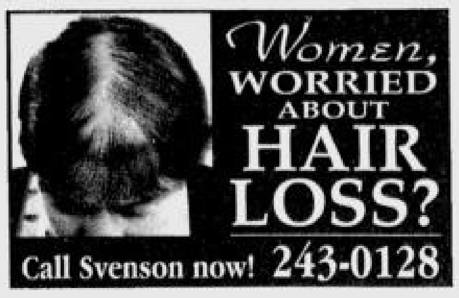
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BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ◈ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

February bank loan growth highest since May last year

By Clarissa S. Batino

LOANS by commercial banks reached P1.4 trillion as of end-February, up P20.6 billion or 1.45 percent from end-January, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

It said in a statement that this was the highest month-on-month growth since May 2001.

Year-on-year, however, the February figure was down 0.6 percent, although this was the smallest contraction since September 2001.

"Despite some positive signs of renewed economic strength, the banks continue to be cautious in extending new loans as they hobble with the burden of nonperforming loans," said the central bank in a statement.

The Bangko Sentral has cut its key overnight rates by 8 percentage points since December 2000 in an effort to re-ignite bank lending. It said the efforts have not yet borne full fruit, although bank lending rates had fallen by slightly more than 10 percentage points over the same period.

"Despite some positive signs of renewed economic strength, banks continue to be cautious in extending new loans as they seek to preserve asset quality and they await more evidence of sustainable growth," the central bank said.

The Bangko Sentral also reported that money in the economy grew by 8.4 percent in March from a year-on-year growth of 7.2 percent the previous month.

The latest data on domestic liquidity, a measure of money supply in the system, would support the inclination of the policy-making Monetary Board to keep bank reserve requirement steady at 16 percent.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said that monetary authorities would likely keep the banks' mandatory deposits to the central bank at 16 percent as opposed to his statement in early March that the Monetary Board might consider reducing the reserve requirement in the middle of the year.

He pointed out that there was sufficient liquidity in the system to spur economic growth and lowering the banks' mandatory deposits to the BSP's vaults would only flood the system with more cash that would not be useful.

As of March, the excess funds were still being channeled to the government based on the 5.5-percent growth in public sector credits against a 3.5-percent contraction in loans extended to the private sector out of the total lending capacity of the system or the so-called net domestic money banks.

A central bank official said the continued improvement in domestic liquidity as of March was a result of the decision of the BSP to bring back the reserve requirement to 16 percent early this year.

Benchmark T-bill rate nearing bottom, unless BSP cuts rate–Edeza

NATIONAL Treasurer Sergio Edeza said yesterday that rates of the benchmark 91-day treasury bills had probably fallen as far as they could.

"Probably this is nearing bottom already, unless the central bank cuts rates again," Edeza told reporters a day after the bill, used by banks to fix their lending rates, reached a historic low of 4.299 percent at a government auction.

The next auction of treasury bills is in two weeks.

The central bank's overnight rates are at a 10-year low and authorities have said there were no plans to revisit them before November.

Edeza, speaking after the auction of re-issued 10-year Treasury bonds, said the Treasury may decide not to issue fresh longer-dated paper until the fourth quarter of the year. It has already said there will be no issues of five-year and longer tenors for the rest of the second quarter.

"We will have to assess the market conditions but I do not think we will issue fives and 10s even in the third quarter," he said.

The re-issued series of 10-year bonds fetched an average rate of 12.754 percent, in line with market expectations.

The Treasury sold P2 billion worth of the bond, just a week after an auction of P3 billion of the same tenor was heavily oversubscribed.

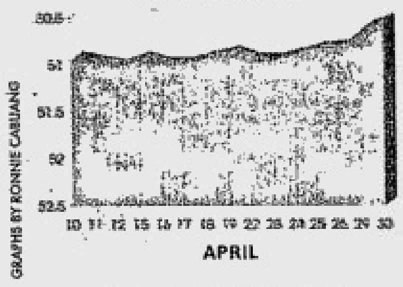
Bids at yesterday's auction totaled P7.396 billion.

Edeza had said that the Treasury would not accept bids above 13 percent, and secondary market traders had said the rate may be below that because of tight supply of longer-dated paper for the remainder of the second quarter. *Reuters*

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P50.54 = $1

As of 5 p.m., April 30, 2002

¥127.96 = $1

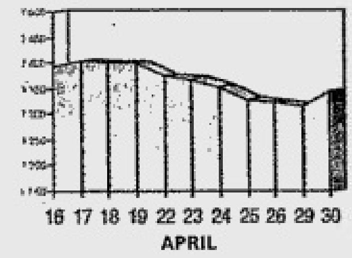
As of 5 p.m., April 30, 2002

GOLD: $309.75/310.25

per ounce Hong Kong,
April 30, 2002

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares end up

SHARES ended higher yesterday as investors took advantage of eight days of price decline and bought select blue chips, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended up 31.08 points, or 2.4 percent, at 1,346.09, after declining 0.7 percent Monday to 1,315.01, its lowest closing level in three months. The index lost 6.4 percent in the past eight sessions.

"It was a dead cat bounce from an extreme sell-off," said Eric Santa Ana, associate director for sales at DBS Vickers Securities. "Most charts already indicated oversold levels."

A dead cat bounce refers to a sharp rise in stock prices after a severe decline.

Battered stocks like blue chip PLDT dominated the market.

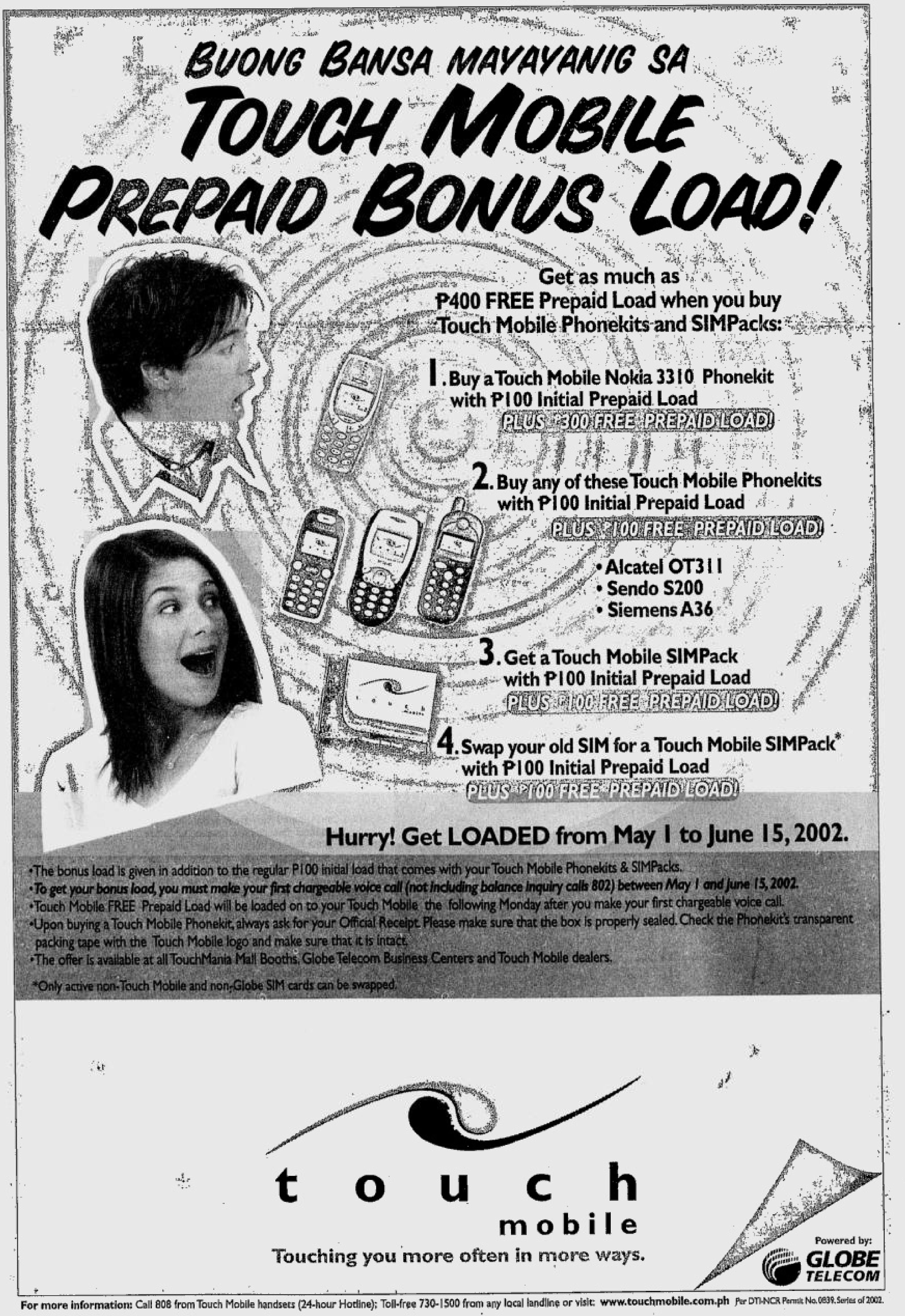
Traders said the recent market sell-off was triggered by dismal first-quarter corporate earnings and the run-up to the May 1 anniversary of last year's violent attempt by groups loyal to fallen leader Joseph Estrada to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo. *AP*

PLDT, Nortel ink deal

DOMINANT carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. has signed a multimillion-dollar network expansion contract with telecommunications equipment and service provider Nortel Networks to address the growing demand for high-bandwidth services in the country.

"This infrastructure rollout will support the Philippine government's campaign to promote an (information and communications technology) economy, as OPTera Connect DX technology will increase network capacity and reliability for an efficient way of doing business," Nortel Networks Philippines managing director Antonio Pio de Roda said in a statement yesterday.

Nortel's OPTera optical switch would enable PLDT to support an increase in network capacity, services provisioning and reliability. *Abigail Ho*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Ayala Corp. taps $150-M loan to refinance maturing debts

By Doris C. Dumlao

AYALA Corp. has closed a $150-million five-year loan facility with Standard Chartered Bank, through an offshore subsidiary, to refinance the company's maturing debts this year.

A company official said in an interview with the INQUIRER yesterday that the refinancing facility was signed in the first quarter. The conglomerate, however, has yet to use the fresh credit line.

"We'll probably draw down from the facility in the latter part of the second quarter or in the early part of the third quarter," the official said. He said proceeds of the loan would be used to retire part of about $200 million worth of loans maturing this year.

Ayala Corp. borrowed through wholly owned foreign unit AC International Finance Ltd. (ACIFL) but it was the flagship firm of the Ayala group that provided the loan guarantee.

The terms of the recent financing deal with Standard Chartered were disclosed in the notes of Ayala's latest consolidated financial statements. The facility was obtained at a rate of 260 points over three- or six-month London Interbank Offered Rate (Libor).

At the company's option, the loan can be disbursed in various tranches over a period of 18 months "under a legally binding commitment which requires the payment of commitment fees on the unutilized portion," it said.

The conglomerate said the loan was part of its "normal funding program."

During its recent stockholders meeting, Ayala said it was planning to reduce its debts, which stood at P52 billion (more than $1 billion) as of end-2001. Dollar-denominated liabilities account for the bulk of the total amount.

The conglomerate settled about $170 million worth of Eurobonds late last year using the proceeds from the sale of food unit Pure Foods Corp. to food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. Early this year, it also retired about $100 million in debts ahead of maturity.

Ayala has another $212 million worth of foreign bonds maturing in July.

"We increased our debt position from 1997 to 1999 and we are now paring these down," company chair Jaime Zobel de Ayala said during the company's recent stockholders meeting.

"Within the next five years, we expect our debt to go down (from $1 billion) to between $300 million and $500 million," company chief finance officer Manuel Bengson said.

Ayala is currently rationalizing its assets and liabilities to strengthen itself as a holding company and as a premier conglomerate amid the challenges of globalization. Some $200 million worth of non-core assets outside of its three flagship businesses—banking, property and telecommunication—were placed under the custody of AC Capital, a new unit created to maximize capital values through either strategic partnership or outright sale.

UnionBank Q1 profit up by 128%

UNION Bank of the Philippines posted a 128-percent increase in net profits in the first quarter of the year as the surge in its fee-based revenues offset the low interest margin for the period, bank president Victor Valdepeñas said yesterday.

Its strong earnings in the first three months of the year made UnionBank among the best performers in the banking sector for the period, topping industry leader Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. which indicated a 10-50 percent increase in profits for the period.

In a statement, Valdepeñas said UnionBank's net profits more than doubled to P506 million this year from P222 million in the same period last year, boosted by a 104-percent rise in revenues to P1.5 billion from year-ago level.

"The strong profit performance of UnionBank was due to robust earnings in its electronic banking, cash management, treasury-held businesses, private banking, consumer banking and other fee-based businesses," Valdepeñas said. *Doris C. Dumlao*

PPA ordered to resolve cargo handling rates rollback issue

THE DEPARTMENT of Transportation and Communication has ordered the Philippine Ports Authority board to convene today to resolve Malacañang's mandate to roll back cargo handling rates on Labor Day.

This was revealed in a letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo by Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Q. Montemayor who prodded the DOTC to act on the President's order and the businessmen's petition for a rollback, which the PPA has ignored for weeks.

Montemayor said his department fully supported the rollback ordered by President Macapagal-Arroyo during the 4th Mindanao Food Congress in Cagayan de Oro City on April 3.

The Coalition for Shipping and Ports Modernization (CSPM) and the Mindanao Business Council met with DOTC Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez and PPA General Manager Alfonso Cusi to press their appeal in mid-May.

But Alvarez and Cusi reportedly stood pat on the cargo rate hikes—10 percent to 15 percent increase in arrastre and stevedoring services made in February last year and the 10 percent increase approved on Jan. 12 this year—as they opted to wait first for a formal order from the President before taking action.

But the businessmen took the action of the DOTC and the PPA as stonewalling. They even threatened to undertake civil disobedience action by paying only the old cargo handling rates prior to the 20-percent cargo handling rate hike.

CSPM said cargo handling costs have gone up by 80 percent for foreign cargoes and 52 percent for domestic cargoes from 1998 to 2002. The increases, it claimed, were approved "unconscionably and capriciously" by the PPA without regard to the situation of port users and sometimes without even waiting for cargo handlers to petition for an increase. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

70,000 I.T. GRADUATES THIS YEAR

Gov't admits failure to create job opportunities

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

AFTER drumming up interest in information technology over the last two years, Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II now admits that the government has failed to create enough job opportunities to take in the 70,000 new IT graduates this year.

Roxas is urging the jobless IT graduates to be patient and wait for new job openings. He also asked IT schools to improve the quality of their system to address the high fall-out rate among applicants.

"There are 800,000 entrants to the labor force every year, but did we produce jobs for all of them? No. I don't think we produced 100,000 IT jobs, but that is where we are headed. We believe we're hitting a momentum and that, based on current indicators, it will eventually come," Roxas said. He stressed that the government was not getting away from its responsibility to create job opportunities for Filipinos.

Roxas cited the growing interest of multinational corporations to establish call center facilities in the country, which he said would generate a substantial number of new jobs for IT graduates.

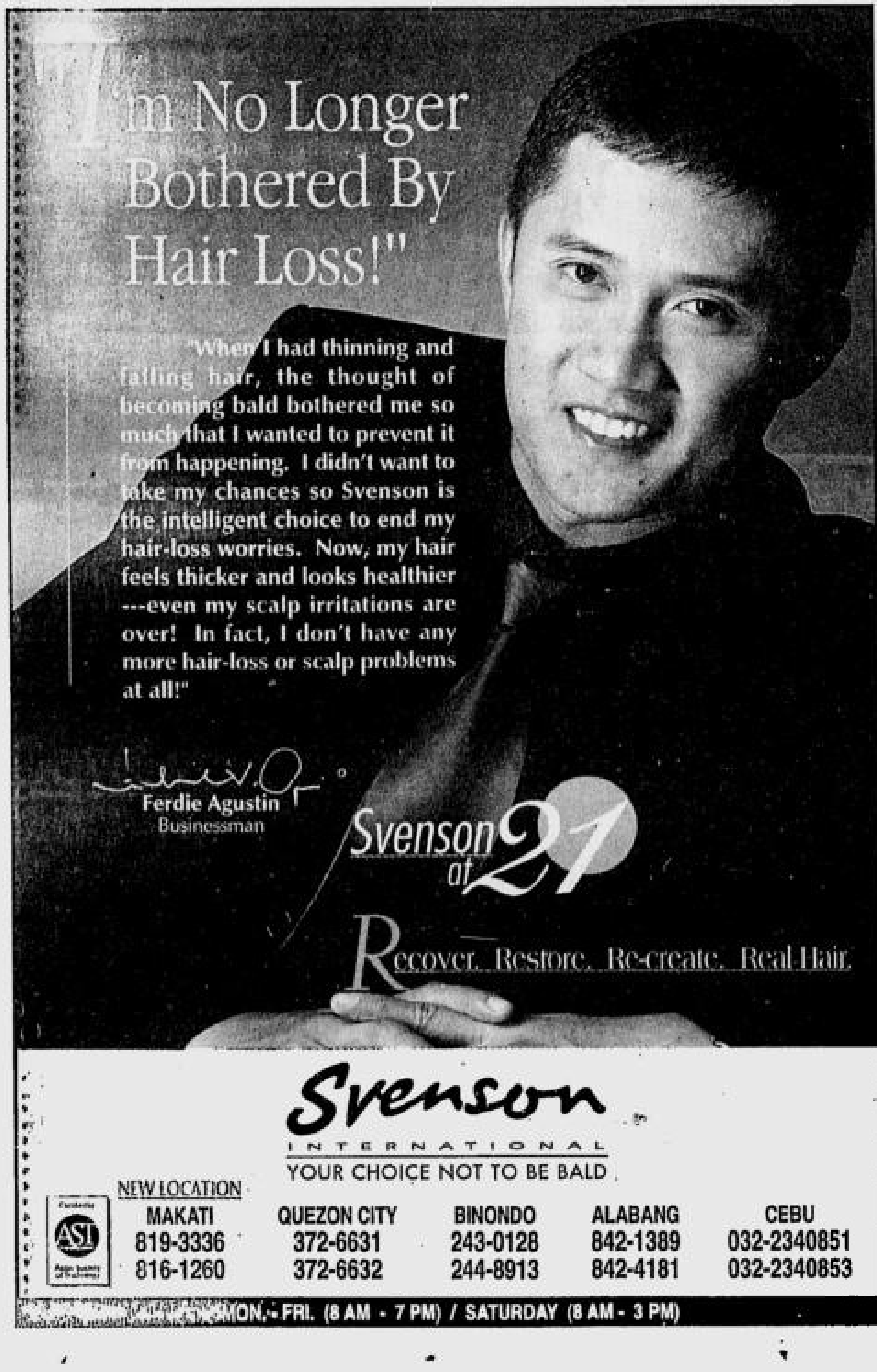
Roxas said one example was American financial services giant AIG, which was choosing between the Philippine, India and Thailand for a major call service center. "We think we have a very high chance of obtaining this business which should create at least 2,000 jobs."

Roxas is vice chair of the Information Technology and E-Commerce Council (Itecc) which was formed three years ago as the government embarked on a far-reaching campaign to develop the country's IT skills and attract IT investments in the country.

But while IT investments have slowed down drastically since 2001, IT schools continued to churn out thousands of graduates every year who have to scramble for fewer job opportunities both here and abroad.

Roxas admitted that there was a high fall-out rate among IT applicants since most companies get as much as 50 applications for every job opening. "The companies get only the best which is why the students and schools themselves should strive for excellence."

Systems Technology Institute chair and Itecc human resources development head Augusto Lagman had laid the blame on the weak economy for the shrinking job opportunities for IT graduates.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MON. - FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SATURDAY (8 AM - 3 PM)

DISLOSURES

ABACUS Consolidated Resources & Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 17, 9 a.m. at the Café Centennial of Club Filipino, Greenhills. Stockholders of record as of June 7 are entitled to notice of and vote at the meeting.

* * *

BENPRES Holdings Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 4 at the Meralco Theater. Record datd is May 13.

* * *

A. BROWN Co. Inc. will merge with its five wholly owned subsidiaries, namely, **Another Brown Co. Inc., Northmin Mining and Development Corp., Manresa Golf & Country Club, Geoex Drilling Corp.**, and **Norphil Properties Inc.**

* * *

CITY & Land Developers Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 11 with record date on May 12.

* * *

CONCRETE Aggregates Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 21, 8 a.m. at the 9/F boardroom of Ortigas and Co. Limited Partnership, Ortigas Building, Pasig City.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.** were Federico Garcia, Peter Garrucho, Alberto Lopez, Augusto Almeda Lopez, Eugenio Lopez III, Manuel Lopez, Manuel Lopez Jr., Oscar Lopez, Federico Lopez, Roberto de Ocampo and Presentacion Psinakis.

* * *

KEPPEL Philippines Marine repurchased 600,000 of its shares at P0.40 per share and another 2,000 shares at P1.30 per share.

* * *

LA TONDEÑA Distillers Inc. repurchased a total of 2.1 million of its shares at prices ranging from P29 to P30 per share. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Tuesday, April 30, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5	5	5	5	7,000
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	90	90	90	90	200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	68	69	67.5	69	639,500
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	34.5	37.5	34.5	37.5	653,400
Global Business Bank Inc.	72	72	72	72	100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	37.5	39	37	39	651,300
Philippine National Bank	54	54	53	53	17,500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12	12	12	12	6,000
Security Bank Corp.	18	18.25	18	18.25	1,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	21.75	22.5	21.5	21.5	42,800
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	40,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.42	0.49	0.4	0.4	110,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1385	1400	1385	1400	3,430
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	30,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1070	1075	1070	1070	23,850
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	29	30.5	29	29.5	29,700
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.57	0.58	1,540,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	640	645	640	645	36,310
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.041	0.042	0.041	0.042	3,100,000
Piltel	0.45	0.47	0.45	0.46	1,000,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	450	465	450	460	352,200
Ivantage Corp.	0.42	0.48	0.42	0.48	130,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.019	0.019	0.018	0.019	19,900,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	23.5	25	23.5	25	573,000
Manila Electric Co. B	37	39.5	37	39	3,399,200
Petron Corp.	1.54	1.66	1.54	1.66	4,527,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.72	1.76	1.72	1.76	1,006,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	20,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.75	2.9	2.75	2.9	3,581,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.92	1.92	1.88	1.88	60,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	10,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	600,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	3,000
Sanitary Wares Mfg. Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	100,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	70,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	10,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.75	14.5	13.75	14	1,835,500
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	30.5	31	30.5	30.5	473,500
RFM Corp.	1.26	1.3	1.26	1.3	130,000
San Miguel Corp. A	49	50	49	50	641,700
San Miguel Corp. B	58	58	57.5	58	263,500
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	30,000
Ayala Corp.	5.7	5.9	5.7	5.9	6,311,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.08	2.08	2.06	2.06	70,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.46	0.49	0.46	0.49	2,350,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0095	0.0095	0.009	0.0096	46,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.75	2.8	2.75	2.8	11,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.59	0.63	0.59	0.61	7,680,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	40,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	100,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.055	0.055	0.05	0.05	6,800,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	20,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	6.5	6.5	6	6	36,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	27	28.5	27	27.5	273,400
Global Equities Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	590,000
Ionics Inc.	7	7.1	7	7	581,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	30,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	400,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.82	0.83	0.82	0.83	3,810,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	500,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.65	0.7	90,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	670,000
Music Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	200,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.34	460,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.105	0.1	0.105	800,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.26	0.26	110,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. B	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	170,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	80,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	400,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	10,800
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.53	0.54	0.53	0.54	910,000
Grand Plaza Hotel Corp.	11	12	11	12	4,200
Manila Jockey Club	13	13	13	13	4,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	27.5	30	27.5	29	1,157,100
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	775	775	775	775	1,020
Equitable PCI Bank-War	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	30,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	745	750	730	750	6,010
Jollibee Warrants	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.5	36,500
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	50,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,200
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.0048	0.0048	0.0046	0.0046	7,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.7	7	6.7	7	14,583,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	1,040,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.38	0.4	0.38	0.38	1,550,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	1,390,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.7	2.75	2.65	2.7	22,153,000
Highlands Prime Leisure	2.06	2.08	2.06	2.08	900,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.32	0.34	0.32	0.34	230,000
SM Development Corp.	1.04	1.1	1.04	1.1	105,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.9	6	5.7	5.9	14,886,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	1.5	1.52	1.5	1.5	49,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc.	0.042	0.042	0.041	0.041	11,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	50,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	7,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	5,000,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	200,000
OIL					
Interport Res. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	4,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	15,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	14,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	60,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	500,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	2,228,580	125,668,175.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	181,178,140	540,337,925.00
PRO	56,837,000	251,114,720.00
Mining	23,299,000	588,500.00
OIL	33,560,000	211,400.00
GRAND TOTALS:	297,102,720	917,920,720.00

AVERAGES

Banks & Fin Svc	556.27	UP 11.44
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,814.92	UP 37.57
PRO	596.43	UP 18.03
Mining	1,332.06	DOWN 7.69
OIL	1.35	UP 0.01
All Shares Index	746.92	UP 10.12
Composite	1,346.09	UP 31.08

NO. OF ADVANCES: 47; NO. OF DECLINES: 21; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 38;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 106; NO. OF TRADES: 3,285

CURRENCIES

April 30, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.106072	1.000000	50.7440
Japan	Yen	0.008636	0.007808	0.3962
United Kingdom	Pound	1.614644	1.459800	74.0761
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.141824	0.128223	6.5065
Switzerland	Franc	0.683267	0.617742	31.3467
Canada	Dollar	0.706079	0.638366	32.3932
Singapore	Dollar	0.611935	0.553250	28.0741
Australia	Dollar	0.594662	0.537634	27.2817
Bahrain	Dinar	2.934035	2.652661	134.6066
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.294945	0.266660	13.5314
Brunei	Dollar	0.611596	0.552944	28.0586
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000118	0.000107	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.025603	0.023148	1.1746
UAE	Dirham	0.301144	0.272264	13.8158
Korea	Won	0.000862	0.000779	0.0395
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.904100	45.8777
Brazil	Real	0.467684	0.422833	21.4562
Denmark	Kroner	0.134509	0.121610	6.1710
India	Rupee	0.022615	0.020446	1.0375
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.291110	0.263193	13.3555
Mexico	New Peso	0.118132	0.106803	5.4196
New Zealand	Dollar	0.493650	0.446309	22.6475
Norway	Kroner	0.131864	0.119218	6.0496
Pakistan	Rupee	0.018480	0.016708	0.8478
South Africa	Rand	0.104981	0.094913	4.8163
Sweden	Kroner	0.108338	0.097948	4.9703
Syria	Pound	0.025138	0.022727	1.1533
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.031940	0.028877	1.4653
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001316	0.001190	0.0604

Gov't considers cap on tax credits for VAT

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance is studying a proposal of Congress to impose a cap on the tax credits that businesses can claim as input to value-added tax as an option to strengthen revenue collection from the VAT system.

A finance official said that the ways and means committee had recommended to the DOF to either abolish the VAT system altogether or to improve it by imposing limits on the input VAT to reduce the tax leakage.

"We are already studying the proposal of Congress and we believe this has more merit than repealing VAT and going back to the sales tax system," the finance official said.

Last week, the DOF had solicited inputs from former ministers on the efficiency of the VAT system. During the meeting, some officials expressed a preference to returning to the sales tax system.

A finance official noted that imposing a cap on input VAT as a percentage of output VAT would substantially improve the tax collection since much of the leakage was traced to the overstatement of tax credits.

But the limits the DOF plan to impose would vary for each industry and would have to be determined by a thorough sectoral bench-marking, the finance official explained.

Under the present system, a company can subtract the input VAT it has paid in purchasing raw materials and services from the output VAT from where the 10-percent impost is collected.

The DOF, the finance official said, would prefer to improve the present system instead of returning to the sales tax system, a move that was considered regressive.

If the VAT is abolished, the Philippines would be the only country in the world to go back to the sales tax system and would join the remaining two countries in Asia—Laos and Cambodia—in imposing the regressive tax system, the official noted.

Compared to the sales tax, the VAT was harder to collect and the leakage was estimated to range from 30 to 50 percent. While easier to collect, the sales tax was seen as more burdensome to businesses and the public because the cascading taxes imposed from the manufacturers to retailers were passed on to consumers.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue collects less than P100 billion in VAT yearly. The finance department estimated that some P70 billion in VAT taxes were not collected annually, leading to an almost 50 percent in tax leakage, making it one of the more "poorly collected" taxes in the system.

Based on a DOF study using 1998 data, the government should collect about P150 billion in VAT taxes.

Before VAT was imposed, the government collected sales tax ranging from 5 to 30 percent from the manufacturers to retailers depending on the product.

The government had started collecting the 10 percent VAT in 1988 after the National Internal Revenue Code was amended by Congress.

Although the tax leakage from VAT remained substantial, the finance official said the collection from the present system was far better compared to the old sales tax system.

In 1987, the last year of the sales tax system, the collection stood at only 0.87 percent of the gross domestic product. During the first year of VAT implementation in 1988, the collection slightly improved to 0.89 percent of the GDP.

In 1997, the VAT as a percentage of GDP contributed revenues equivalent to 1.95 percent. But in 2000, revenues from VAT stood at only 1.61 percent of GDP.

In a position paper submitted to Congress, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said that the move to abolish the VAT system was "ill-advised."

He stressed that the system must be strengthened instead by administrative measures such as the creation of a VAT committee that would try to rationalize exemptions.

Camacho also proposed the creation of a task force that would monitor fake receipts where a big source of leakage was traced. He proposed the use of special, watermarked papers to be issued by the BIR for sales invoices.

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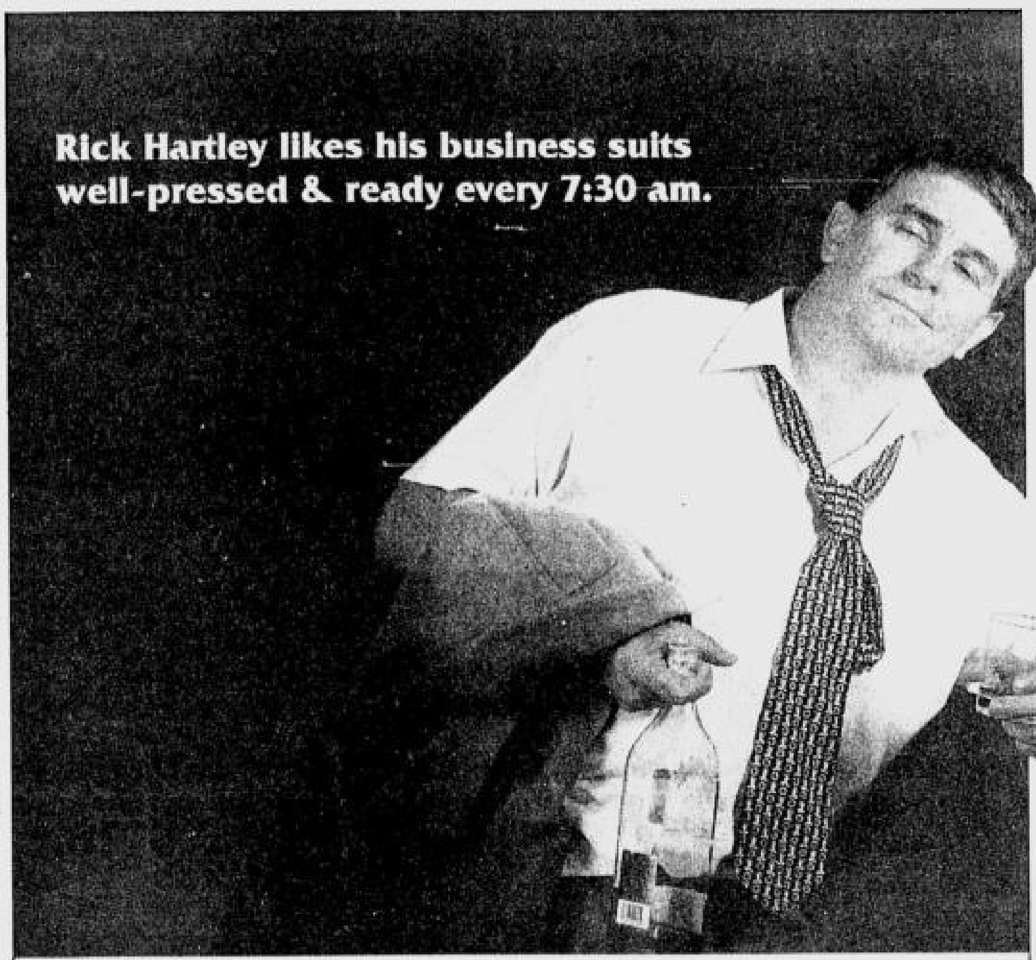
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DA seen raising tariffs on 130 farm products

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture is set to issue an order raising the tariffs on 130 imported agricultural products in line with the Safeguards Measures Act, which seeks to provide local industries some shield from the influx of imported commodities.

Agriculture Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning Segfredo Serrano said the department was drafting the memorandum order which would be submitted for approval to Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor and Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho.

The department's draft order calls for the increase in the tariffs on 130 agricultural products by as much as one-third of their current tariff levels.

Among the products covered by the safeguard measures are chicken, vegetables and high value crops such as mango, vegetables, sweet potato, peanut, black pepper. Agriculture officials said these products should have been covered by higher tariff rates six years ago but it was only now that their tariffs were being raised.

"This should have been implemented before our entry to the World Trade Organization," Serrano said.

The department will hold consultations on the final draft of the order before it will be submitted to the secretaries of agriculture and finance. The Tariff Commission will be the implementing body, he added.

The proposed increase in tariffs is expected to enhance the competitiveness of local agricultural products against cheap imports, he said.

Serrano said the agriculture department had adopted an aggressive stance in protecting the legitimate rights of the agricultural sector under existing multilateral and bilateral trade agreements and the widening of access for local agricultural products in international markets.

Hotels, airlines urged to cut rates to boost tourism in South

DAVAO CITY—The Department of Tourism in Southern Mindanao has asked airline companies and hotel operators to reduce their rates at least for June and July in order to entice tourists into the region and the country as a whole.

Sonya Garcia, DOT regional director, said the months of June and July were the leanest months in terms of tourism arrival and that the current airfares and hotel rates could further reduce the number of visitors during the period.

She said the proposed reduction in airfares and hotel rates could be aimed particularly to the North American market.

"This is an opportune time because June and July are school vacations in the United States," she said.

Cebu Pacific has reportedly agreed to reduce its fare although there was no available data on how much the new rate for the said months would be.

Garcia said the agency was also negotiating with other airlines to come up with standard rates.

But hotel operators, particularly in this city, are not keen on lowering their accommodation rates.

Paul Borromeo, president of the Davao Tourism Association, said they would instead improve their services.

"We will focus on giving value for their money since lowering the rates will be very difficult," Borromeo said. He said it would be hard for them to compete with their counterparts in other Asian countries offering low accommodation packages such as Indonesia.

Borromeo said that even if the local hotel rates were higher than those in Indonesia, the services they offer were far better.

"Maybe they have cheap accommodations but we have cheap and better food," he said. ***Joel B. Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Chinatrust moves to build strong retail business

By Elena R. Torrijos

CHINATRUST (Phils.) Commercial Bank Corp., the local subsidiary of Taiwan's leading private commercial bank, is introducing Five@Zero, an innovative home loan product aimed at boosting the bank's consumer loan portfolio by around P500 million.

In an interview yesterday, Chinatrust Phils. first vice president Marithel Luna said the bank's full-page newspaper teaser ad that came out Monday received tremendous response.

"This is a maiden home loan product of Chinatrust. It's a 15-year loan but the 11th to 15th year the client will no longer have to pay any interest," Luna said.

She pointed out that for a P1 million loan now, the client would be able to save about P138,000 for the five years that he would not pay the interest.

Also, the product allows clients with existing loans to switch to Chinatrust at no transfer cost and enjoy lower interest charge on the loan (2 percentage lower than the existing loan rate).

The product is currently available in Metro Manila, Cavite, Laguna and Rizal.

Chinatrust Phils. has 18 branches nationwide and is expected to expand its network further this year.

Last year the bank posted a 22-percent increase in net income to P244.7 million from P200.7 million the previous year.

Earlier, Chinatrust Phils. president and chief executive Joey Bermudez said the bank would focus on building its retail business by acquiring personal loan portfolios of companies and introducing a variety of consumer loan products.

Beginning the second quarter, Chinatrust plans to launch unique and need-focused retail banking products and services.

This will include, among others, value for money deposit, investment and treasury products, consumer loan products and competitive consumer services.

"Our primary objective is to be recognized as a product and service innovator, having specialized skills with strategic global links. To our customers, this means measurable benefits which will change the way they judge bank services," he pointed out.

GOINGS-ON

Hedcor-Siemens' P1.2-M deal

HYDRO Electric Development Corp. and Siemens Inc. signed a P1.25-million contract to build a supervisory control and data acquisition (Scada) system for Hedcor's Bineng two hydro electric power plant at the Hedcor head office in Beckel, Benguet Province.

Scada is a remote control system that will allow Hedcor to automatically acquire real-time turbine/generator data electronically; create automatic startup/shutdown sequences, alarms and events, statistical, scheduled reports and graphical displays; and extend data to any Windows-based applications.

As a pilot project, the Bineng 2 Scada system will prepare Hedcor plants for remote control and monitoring via TCP/IP and seamless connection/communications to other plans.

Trade mission to Russia

THE PHILIPPINE Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) is organizing a Philippine Trade Mission to Russia to coincide with the visit of Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto T. Guingona to Moscow on the first week of June 2002. The mission will be headed by Miguel B. Varela, honorary chair of PCCI.

With the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Filipinos see fresh opportunity to explore the Russian market. The country's top exports to Russia include: garments, furniture, fresh and processed foods, carrageenan, electronics, transport equipment, automotive parts, inorganic chemicals and housewares.

New CSB Finance branches

CSB Finance is planning to open its fifth and sixth branches this year. An affiliate of City Savings Bank and a member of the Aboitiz Group, CSB Finance extends credit through salary loans and small business loans to help pump up the local economy in less urbanized areas in the Visayas. It opened its first branch in Bogo, Cebu in August 2000 and since then, has set up offices in Tanjay, Negros Oriental; Ubay in Bohol, and Tacloban, Leyte.

Plans are underway for the opening of its fifth branch in Calbayog in the third quarter of the year following the successful launch of its Tacloban branch in September last year.

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Jenn Tamese, Chief Planning Executive
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Julie Evangelista, Planning Executive
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US tops league of most competitive economies

ZURICH—The United States has maintained its ranking as the world's biggest economy for a fourth consecutive year, according to a study published by a Swiss business school on Tuesday.

It easily outpaced all its rivals in a 49-country list, according to the "World Competitiveness Yearbook" compiled by the International Institute for Management Development in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Argentina, which has been battling with a deep economic and political crisis, is at the bottom of the list.

The study ranks and analyses countries on more than 300 criteria designed to measure economic performance, government efficiency, business efficiency, and infrastructure. One-third of the data are compiled by surveying corporate executives, with the rest taken from economic and other statistics.

The study takes into account such standard measures as economic growth and inflation, but also other factors, such as fiscal policy, management practices, the impact of globalization, or a country's value system.

The United States, with a top score of 100, was followed by Finland and Luxembourg, both with a score of just above 84 points.

Japan, the world's No. 2 economy, slipped to 30th place in the ranking from 26th last year and 24th in 2000.

"Japan continues to suffer from a 'mid-life' crisis, which is longer and deeper than expected," said Stephane Garelli, the director of the study.

Previous high-fliers such as Singapore, Hong Kong and Ireland "pay the price of a huge turnaround in economic performance," Garelli said. The countries lost three ranks each and came in on ranks 5, 9 and 10, respectively. *Reuters*

Economies in Asia must shift to 'value added' exports—UN

BANGKOK, Thailand—Asian nations must develop distinctive manufactured goods for export if they are to benefit from world trade, a United Nations official said Monday.

While most developing countries rely on commodity and natural resource exports, some Asian nations have prospered from "value added" products, UN Conference on Trade and Development, or Unctad, secretary general Rubens Ricupero said.

"Only a few developing countries . . . South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore—were really successful in moving constantly upward in terms of participating in manufacturing exports," he said.

Ricupero said those countries produced goods that were increasingly manufactured locally, with "national value added," and offered more than cheap labor, resources or commodities.

The Unctad head, speaking at the Bangkok launch of the Trade and Development Report 2002, said South Korea's automobile industry showed how locally designed and built products led to economic growth.

He said Asian economies also grew in recent years from the export of electronic and electric goods, though they were based on the assembly of imported parts rather than more profitable manufacturing enterprises.

"Even countries that succeeded in increasing their (export) volumes, they received less reward because of sharp declines in prices," Ricupero said.

"Countries that were able to increase their exports were not able to really improve very much their situation in terms of added (local) value," he said.

The 178-page report released Monday said developing countries are increasing their share in the export of manufactured goods but they are reaping little benefit.

High-tech goods may look like they are coming from poorer countries, but in fact those nations only provided the low-skill labor needed to assemble items produced elsewhere, it said.

Unctad said up to 30 percent of world exports are produced in this manner by large international corporations, almost all based in developed countries.

Large developing countries such as China and India also need to expand their domestic markets in order to overcome deep-seated problems of unemployment and poverty, the report said.

"Although the industrial countries have seen their share in global manufacturing exports reduced from 80 percent to 70 percent in recent years, the developed countries were able to increase their value added and their participation in manufacturing income. The opposite happens in developing countries," Ricupero said.

The report also said that developing countries have been hit hard by the global economic slowdown. International trade has transmitted the situation in richer countries to developing nations, with a number of poorer countries going into recession.

"After growing by 14 percent in 2000, export volumes for developing countries grew by less than one percent in 2001. For developing countries as a whole, growth was 2.1 percent, down from 5.4 percent the previous year," it said.

Ricupero said that the success stories of a few countries, mostly in Asia, are skewing figures that suggest improvement across all poorer nations.

"Many of the developing countries still remain highly dependent on the export of products that are based either on natural resources or on labor," he told reporters.

Real improvements will depend on an increase in the market for labor-intensive products in developed countries, and in a move away from such production in middle-income countries to allow the poorest nations to take a larger share, Unctad said.

Large developing countries such as China and India also need to expand their domestic markets in order to overcome deep-seated problems of unemployment and poverty, the report said. *AP*

Asian high-grade bonds weaken

HONG KONG—Fears of further ratings downgrades for ailing US telecom companies spurred a sell-off in high grade Asian dollar bonds on Tuesday, but some analysts said the weakness provided an opportunity for bargain hunters.

"The market is weaker across the board because of the sell-off in New York," said a Manila-based bond dealer with a European investment bank.

But bond traders expected yield spreads to remain mostly rangebound this week as liquidity was likely to remain thin ahead of the Labor Day holiday on Wednesday and also because of Japan's Golden Week holiday season.

Investors in the United States on Monday rushed to trim their holdings of hard-hit bonds of Qwest Communications International Inc. and WorldCom Inc.

Bonds of Qwest and WorldCom tumbled last week after the companies warned that 2002 results would fall below expectations, and after WorldCom was hit with rating downgrades from three agencies.

This in turn weakened investor sentiment in Asian dollar bond trade, dealers said.

Spreads on both PCCW '11s and Hutchison '11s widened by 3 basis points (bps) to 267 bps and 153 bps over Treasuries respectively.

Malaysia '11s were quoted at 145 bps against 140 bps a day earlier.

But newly launched high yield dollar bonds of Philippine Long Distance Co (PLDT) held their ground as bids for the credit were driven higher by strong offshore demand.

Spreads on PLDT bonds due 2012 tightened by two bps to 596 over Treasuries.

"We expect the bid side to return with some vengeance over the next few days, as spread widening on some Asian favorites has presented bargain-hunting opportunities," Raja Visweswaran, head of Asian credit research at Bank of America, said in a note to clients.

"We favor PCCW bonds as well as those of the Malaysian sovereign in this context," he said. *Reuters*

VICE President Hu Jintao (center) of the People's Republic of China with wife Liu Yongqing, New York Stock Exchange chair Richard Grasso (left), American International Group chair and CEO Maurice Greenberg (second from right) and Henry Paulson Jr., chair and CEO of Goldman Sachs, give a thumbs-up sign before ringing the opening bell at the NYSE on April 29.

AFP

Japan industrial output up for 2nd straight month

TOKYO—Japan's industrial production rose in March for the second straight month, offering more evidence that the worst may be over for the world's No. 2 economy as the central bank kept monetary policy unchanged.

Output at Japanese factories increased by 0.5 percent from February on rising exports and an end to inventory drawdowns, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Meti) said on Tuesday.

The Bank of Japan, as widely expected, left its target of excess funds parked at the central bank at 10 trillion to 15 trillion yen ($78 billion-$117 billion) and said it would pump in even more cash if necessary to keep financial markets stable.

"Exports are stronger than we had expected and output is firm. The economic recovery may turn out to be stronger than we had expected, led by external demand," said Tomoaki Shishido, an economist at Nomura Research Institute.

The industrial output rise, after a revised 1.2 percent jump in February, matched the median forecast in a Reuters survey of 15 economists. It reinforced expectations that gross domestic product (GDP) for the January to March quarter due out in about a month may show growth after three consecutive quarters of contraction.

"The 0.5-percent rise is in line with the consensus. If you look at the April and May forecasts for manufacturers' output, the data showed strong results," Shishido said.

Economists cite an end to inventory cuts and an export pickup thanks to a global recovery and a weaker yen as the main reasons behind the upturn in output. Data last week showed Japan's trade surplus in March rose 39 percent from a year earlier. *Reuters*

UNIONBANK
NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

April 26, 2002

TO ALL STOCKHOLDERS:

Please be advised that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of UnionBank of the Philippines will be held at the Manila A&B Hall of Makati Shangri-la, Makati Avenue, Makati City on Friday, May 24, 2002, at 4:00 pm.

The Agenda for the said meeting will be as follows:
I. Calling the Roll
II. Proof of notice of meeting
III. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Stockholders' Meeting held on June 1, 2001
IV. Annual Report of Management on Operations for 2001
V. Appointment of External Auditor
VI. Election of Directors for 2002-2003 term
VII. Adjournment

Only stockholders of record as of April 10, 2002 will be entitled to attend and participate at the above meeting.

Registration starts at 2:30 pm. In the event you are unable to attend and in order to assure the presence of a quorum at the annual meeting, please accomplish the Proxy Form sent to you and return it to the undersigned at UnionBank of the Philippines, 5th Floor, SSS (Makati) Building, Ayala corner Herrera Street, Makati City, not later than May 14, 2002 for the validation of Proxies entitled to vote. The giving of the proxy will not affect your right to vote in the event you personally attend the meeting.

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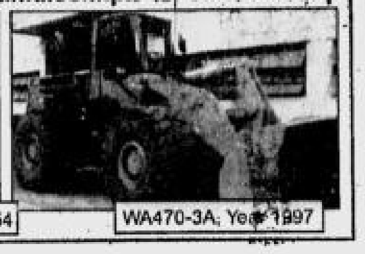


WA470-3A, Year 1997

Brazil makes major sales pitch for famed beef

By Raul O. Marcelo

BRASILIA, Brazil—It's the 5th largest country on earth, among the top 10 economies and the biggest in Latin America. It is also the world's top producer of sugar cane, oranges, coffee and the second in beef, poultry and corn. Still, the Brazilians are making a major sales pitch for their famous beef.

The marketing campaign—called the Brazilian Beef Project—is an initiative of the Brazilian Association of Beef Exporters or ABIEC and the National Confederation for Agriculture.

It is backed by the Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture and the Exporters Promotion Agency or Apex. Its proponents are investing $2 million just to promote the Brazilian beef in the international markets.

The Brazilians are hoping to develop new export markets by focusing aggressively on quality, and letting the world know about it.

With the United States and the European Union fortified by high tariff walls, Brazil decided that its time to tap new markets.

The move also stems from the fact that while it exported $2.86 billion worth of beef and other meat products in 2001 (of this, fresh, frozen and processed beef accounted for $999.68 million) or nearly double the $566 million in 1992, this export figure represents only 10 percent of Brazil's total beef production, with 90 percent being consumed locally.

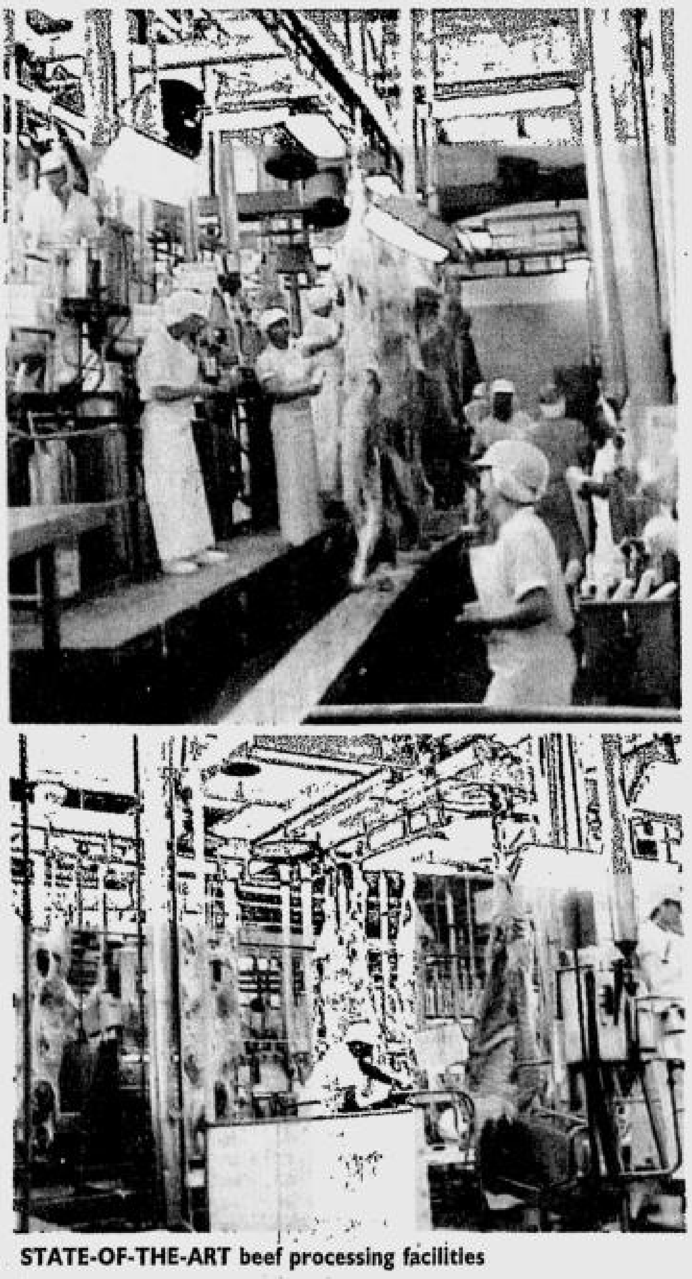
Its export markets for fresh and frozen beef in 2001 are diverse—from neighboring Chile ($95 million), to the Netherlands ($93.78 million), Israel ($62.3 million) and Egypt ($70.14 million), to as far in the east as Hong Kong ($24.05 million). The United States and the United Kingdom, meantime, accounted for two-thirds or $182.5 million of Brazil's processed beef exports last year.

Brazilian officials and beef exporters believe that the world market for their beef products has enormous room for growth—both in the developed countries of North America and Europe and untapped regions as the Middle East and Asia.

Stumbling block

But the problem—as many export-dependent developing countries will agree—is the barrier to trade set up by many rich nations. The trade wall now takes the form of subsidies and other measures designed to protect their local farmers.

The international trade system is well organized and there is now nominal tariffs prevailing due to the World Trade Organization, says Brazil's Minister for Agriculture Marcus Vinicius Pratini de Moraes.



STATE-OF-THE-ART beef processing facilities

However, he tells visiting journalists that tariffs had taken on a new form—stringent sanitary laws being used as a new form of protection by the United States, the European Union, Japan and other developed markets.

There are also internal and export subsidies given by Japan, the United States and the EU to their agricultural farmers, Pratini points out, such that "competition is no longer at the farm levels, it is now at the Treasury level and (Brazil) cannot compete with the US Treasury," which has been paying its farmers more than the prevailing market prices.

"It is unfair for poor countries to pay for the internal policies (of developed countries) that benefit only a few people (the farmers in these developed economies)."

With complaints lodged with the WTO to take years to resolve, the solution to expanding Brazil's export market for its famed beef is to tap new markets.

Pratini says there is an enormous technological revolution going on in Brazil, considered as the world's last agricultural frontier with some 90 million hectares of available land (or equivalent to China's agricultural land being cultivated today).

Among those spearheading this drive is the Embrapa or the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corp. With 40 attached agencies, 2,064 researchers and a budget of $300 million to $400 million a year, Embrapa's goal is to provide solutions for the sustainable development of Brazil's agribusiness sector.

"We will show to the world that we have the technology" to advance Brazil's agriculture sector, Pratini says, citing investments in biotechnology and organic production, the "in" thing especially in Europe.

PRATINI

As Pratini puts it: "Agriculture will be the focal point in all trade relations in the coming years."

Journalists' tour

Tapping advertising and public relations firm Hill and Knowlton's global network, journalists from different countries, the first and the developing worlds, are being brought here to have a first-hand view of Brazil's beef industry—from the expansive cattle farms to the canning factories that make varied brands like Tutti Bon corned beef, and to allied facilities like the leather-making plant.

COWS grazing at the San Miguel cattle farm in Brazil.

The tour starts in Sao Paolo, in a city called Lins where the Bertin beef complex is located. Using state-of-the-art equipment, Bertin slaughters anywhere between 1 and 1.2 million cattle a year and processes these in compliance with US Department of Agriculture, EU and Brazilian Federal Inspection norms and regulations. In 2001, it exported $245 million worth of beef mainly to Europe, Chile and the Middle East.

Next stop is the Exposiciao Agropecuaria de Londrina or the Farm Trade Fair at Londrina in Parana. The fair showcases the advanced techniques and equipment behind Brazil's successful agribusiness sector.

Then the group is brought to one of Brazil's biggest and integrated beef facilities—the sprawling Fazenda São Miguel Farms, also considered as the most modern cattle farm of the country.

It counts state-of-the-art equipment and machinery. Two years ago, Fazenda São Miguel da Catequese developed the organic cattle breeding project, which aims to produce 12,000 organic herds.

All the organic production will be certified by Biodynamic Institute (IBD), which is recognized by the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements and by the DAP (Deutschen Akkreditierungssystem Prufwesen) of Germany.

Final stop is this capital city for a meeting with Brazil's agriculture minister, Mr. Pratini, the multilingual, German-descent official earlier rumored to have considered running for president of this nation of 170 million people.

The $2-million Brazilian Beef Project will bring more journalists from Europe and policy-makers from existing and prospective export markets to this vast country in the coming months, all in the hope of making more people aware of Brazil's already famous beef.

And how exactly does Brazilian beef taste? Luscious, mouthwatering, succulent, tender best describe grilled Brazilian beef or churrasco. And that's all the group had wanted—and actually had—during the short sojourn to Brazil.

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BOJ Policy Board upgrades economic outlook for Japan

TOKYO—The Bank of Japan's Policy Board on Tuesday upgraded its economic outlook based on improvements in exports and production but remained cautious about the economy's ability to move into a full-fledged recovery.

A rebound led by the US economy and improvements in Southeast Asia have given hope the moribund economy could pull out of its third recession in a decade.

"Overall, Japan's economy is expected to stop deteriorating towards the latter half of fiscal 2002 but an anticipated autonomous recovery is not likely to gain much momentum," it said in a semi-annual outlook report on the economy and prices.

"On the outlook . . . for fiscal 2002 and early fiscal 2003, an increase in exports and progress in inventory adjustments is expected to induce a recovery in production. This will lead to an improvement in corporate profits and capital spending, especially in the manufacturing sector."

Mamoru Yamazaki, chief economist at Barclays Capital, said: "The report reflects the growing view that there are signs of the economy bottoming out."

The nine-member Policy Board produced a core forecast for gross domestic product ranging between minus 0.5 percent and plus 0.1 percent for the current fiscal year ending next March.

That compared with core range of minus 1.1 percent and plus 0.1 percent in its previous October outlook report.

The government has forecast the economy to post around zero growth for the year ending next March, although private economists are slightly more pessimistic.

A recent Reuters poll of 28 economists forecast the economy to shrink 0.5 percent for fiscal 2002/03.

But a persistent decline in prices was expected to continue.

The Board forecast the core consumer price index (CPI), which excludes volatile fresh food prices, to fall between 0.8 and 1 percent in fiscal 2002/03.

Nationwide core CPI for fiscal 2001/02 was down 0.8 percent year-on-year, the steepest fall on record, following the previous year's fall of 0.5 percent.

CPI is a closely watched indicator for monetary policy since the central bank has said it would maintain its so-called "quantitative" easing framework—targeting the amount of money rather than interest rates—until the year-on-year changes in core CPI stabilize at zero or above.

As such, economists expect the central bank to stand pat on policy despite an improvement in the economy.

"This shows that the BOJ thinks deflation will continue even though the GDP contraction might be slightly smaller," said Kazuhiko Ogata, senior economist at HSBC Securities. *Reuters*

GM signs Daewoo deal under cloud of protest

SEOUL—General Motors Corp. signed on Tuesday an agreement to buy key assets from bankrupt Daewoo Motor Co., a deal that gives GM a firmer foothold in Asian car markets and represents a milestone in South Korea's corporate reforms.

But in a reminder of a past South Korea is trying to throw off, union protesters forced the firms to shift a signing ceremony to a secret location in Seoul after bursting into the original hotel venue shouting slogans against the deal.

Capping more than a year of talks, the world's largest automaker agreed to pay $251 million in cash for a 42.1-percent stake in a joint venture with Daewoo creditors to revive South Korea's third-largest automaker in sales terms.

The creditors will hold 33 percent and GM partner companies will take a 24.9-percent stake, GM said in a statement.

The deal marks a major victory for the Seoul government, which has pushed to attract foreign capital as it restructures conglomerates undone by the 1997-1998 Asian financial crisis.

Daewoo had liabilities of 24.7 trillion won ($19.18 billion) at the end of March compared to 7.9 trillion won in assets.

But as the GM-Daewoo deal was being set in stone, another huge asset sale crumbled.

In a shock move, the board of South Korean chipmaker Hynix Semiconductor Inc. rejected a $3 billion asset sale to US rival Micron Technology Inc.

That scuttled what would have been the largest sale to a foreign company by Asia's third-largest economy, which is enjoying a rebound that has helped it outperform regional peers. There was no immediate reaction from Micron.

The GM-Daewoo deal followed similar off-on talks.

For GM, it brings a far larger foothold in one of Asia's biggest, fastest growing but most insulated car markets. The country buys 1.4 million vehicles a year.

"You've got a great capability to enter Korea, you've got an outstanding technology base of precuts, and third, you've got a capability to serve not only the Korean market, but many markets around the world," Frederick Henderson, president of GM's Asia Pacific operations, told reporters. *Reuters*

Private sector catches up fast in Communist China

BEIJING—China's once reviled private sector is poised to overtake the state in terms of economic clout as millions of people jostle for new jobs amid the nation's most wrenching reforms under Communist rule.

The share of the private sector in the fast-growing Chinese economy hit 33 percent, just below the state sector's 37 percent, according to a quarterly survey by China's labor ministry, state media said on Tuesday.

The findings come as Chinese plans to honor four private entrepreneurs as model workers and award them the prestigious May 1 Labor Medal for the first time, underscoring how economic changes are subtly altering the political landscape.

Millions of workers in the massive but inefficient state sector are facing job losses and an acute shortage of relevant skills as grossly inefficient state firms streamline or close.

China is looking to the private sector to absorb swelling ranks of unemployed migrating in droves to booming cities from the impoverished countryside to find work.

Beijing has highlighted unemployment and the need to build a social security net as critical issues ahead of sweeping leadership changes due this September or October.

Analysts say labor unrest is a potentially explosive issue that could jeopardize a smooth power transition after thousands of workers protested last month against unpaid wages and insufficient welfare support in northeastern cities.

Those protests appear to have petered out under the heavy hand of the government, but analysts see room for more unrest as discontent over official corruption and acute income disparities grows.

The survey highlighted rising competition for jobs in a nation accelerating painful economic reforms and pricing its markets open to foreign competition since becoming a World Trade Organization member in December.

In stark contrast to job patterns under the former centrally planned economy, eroded since economic reforms began in the late 1970s, the Economic Daily said on average, three applicants now vied for every job in China's 78 cities.

In booming Shanghai and the central city of Changsha, there are more likely to be four people going for every job, the newspaper said.

Unemployment is already growing rapidly and China's official jobless tally is expected to top 20 million in four year's time, compared with 6.81 million in 2001, state media said on Monday. *Reuters*

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PARANAQUE

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MALE/FEMALE

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- With typing speed of 45 WPM and steno at 60 WPM

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Well versed in MS Office, Excel and in accounting principles and interrelations of Accounts.
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Education	Bachelor of Laws
Experience	1 yr. experience in Litigation
Training	4 hrs. of relevant training
Eligibility	RA 1080 (Bar)

Please send application letter and resumé to
HRD-LIVECOR - 7/F One Corporate Plaza,
845 A. Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City
on or before May 15, 2002

CAPITOL MASONIC CORPORATION, INC.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

The CMC will hold its 44th Stockholders' Meeting on Saturday, **May 18, 2002** at 5:00 p.m. at Capitol Masonic Temple, Katarungan, cor. kalayaan Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City (behind Shell Service Station).

Stockholders unable to personally attend may send their Proxy/ies to the Corporate Secretary, Atty. Benedicto A. Madarang at the Mezzanine Floor, CMC Bldg. 35 Matalino St., Diliman, Quezon City. Tel. No. **433-4505**.

(PDI - May 1, 2002)

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **ALFREDO PREPUSE** was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc. No. 331, Page No. 2, Book No. 7, Series of 2002 under Notary Public Atty. Cipriano A. Almazan.
(PDI-April 24, May 1 & 8, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Laguna
Municipality of Biñan

PREQUALIFICATION, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

The Municipality of Biñan will conduct a prequalification of prospective contractors for the **Construction of a 50-bed Ospital ng Biñan located at the National Highway, Canlalay, Biñan, Laguna** as per scope of work, specifications, plan and detailed drawings.

Details may be obtained from the Office of the PBAC Secretariat/Office of the MPDC, Municipal Building, Poblacion, Biñan, Laguna, with Tel. No. **(049) 511-3523.**

For prequalification purposes, interested bidders/contractors must submit proofs showing that they comply with the following requirements:

1) Contractor should be a general contractor with PCAB accreditation of at least Triple A category level;
2) Contractor should have at least five (5) years experience as building contractor and a track record on construction of institutional projects requiring excellent workmanship on first class hospitals and other public buildings;
3) Contractor should submit a list of completed projects indicating project cost and nature of work undertaken;
4) Name of company/business address, telephone/fax number and year of incorporation/year business was established. List of other documents required is available at the Office of the PBAC Secretariat.

The above-requirements shall be submitted to the Office of the PBAC Secretariat/Office of the MPDC, Municipal Building, Poblacion, Biñan, Laguna not later than **May 24, 2002.**

Only those who comply with the above requirements and are prequalified by the PBAC will be invited to participate in the actual bidding which will be conducted on a later date to be advised to prequalification bidders. The two-envelope system shall be adopted in the bidding.

The PBAC reserves the right to reject any of the bidders to waive informality in the bids received or to accept such bids which is considered most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **HERMIS C. PEREZ**
Municipal Mayor/PBAC Chairman

(PDI - May 1, 8 & 15, 2002)

We need immediately!

EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS

Interested applicants must be:

- Graduates of Journalism or Mass Communication from prestigious college/ universities
- Must have at least one year experience in production work in a publication
- Must have hands-on experience in layouting pages and proofreading
- Must be comfortable with office softwares or any related pagination or editing software

Interested individuals are encouraged to e-mail their application letter and resumés to blindad02@lycos.com

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PRO DATA SYSTEM

is in need of

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Male/Female, not more than 35 years old and must have a degree in Marketing and Communication, Computer Engineering or any Computer related courses. Must be hardworking, with strong personality and computer literacy is an advantage. Must have an excellent customer sales and service skills, proficient in oral and written English and can work with minimum supervision. Having established business contacts is an advantage.

TECHNICAL ENGINEER/SUPERVISOR

Male/Female, not more than 30 years old and must have a degree in Computer Engineering (COE), Electronics and Communications Enginering (ECE) or Computer Engineering related course. Must have at least two years relevant experience with extensive hands-on knowledge of computer hardware, software troubleshooting, repair and maintenance (printers, scanners, modem, etc.).

ACCOUNTING STAFF

Preferably female, not more than 30 years old, BSBA graduate major in Accounting. Must have at least two years experience in general accounting, stock inventory, accounts receivable, collections and preparation of books of accounts. Must be computer literate.

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	Rizal	**Romblon**

The Consultancy Architect/Engineer must:

- ✔ be registered with and authorized by SEC to engage in Consultancy services;
- ✔ be technically and financially qualified to undertake the services and must have an adequate pool of experienced Architects, Engineers and CAD Operators;
- ✔ be involved in the profession for the last three (3) to five (5) years prior to the submittals of proposals;
- ✔ have undertaken at least (2) projects of a similar in nature and bulk in terms of budget; and
- ✔ produce the expected output on TIME as required by the project.

Deadline of submission: May 22, 2002

Interested parties may contact or inquire at:

The Regional Director, TESDA Region IV

Attention: Pre-qualification Evaluation and Award Committee, East Service Road, SSH, Taguig, Metro Manila, Tel/Fax: 887-5781 / 893-19-72

SZOPAD SOCIAL FUND PROJECT AND PROPOSED ARMM SOCIAL FUND FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

(The Office of the President (OP) & The Office of the Governor of ARMM)

The Government of Philippines (GOP), in the pursuit of its parallel strategy of promoting peace and development in Mindanao, and of promoting expanded autonomy of the ARMM, together with the Regional Government of ARMM, is currently finalizing the preparation and processing of a proposed ARMM Social Fund for Peace and Development (ASFPD) Project. The World Bank has been requested to finance the project (and possibly other donor(s)). The on-going SZOPAD Social Fund Project is being funded by the OPEC Fund and the World Bank, and is in the final year of implementation. The proposed ASFPD Project, to be implemented over a 5 year period, aims to help build peace and reduce poverty in conflict-affected and conflict-influenced communities in the ARMM Region. The main focus of the project is to support community-driven development approaches and to strengthen institutional capacities and governance in the ARMM region, working in close collaboration with on-going programs.

Based on a transparent and competitive selection process, the OP and the ARMM Government are seeking a competent candidate to be appointed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to the position of Executive Director of the Fund Management Office (FMO). He/she would be the ED of the SZOPAD Social Fund Project in its transition towards the proposed successor program - the ASFPD Project -- and would manage the ASFPD Project once becoming operational (currently to be launched in Jan. 2003, with the transition during 2002). The FMO is a semi-autonomous agency in the Office of the President, under the overall direction of a high level Board of Directors appointed by the President.

The main functions of the new Executive Director will include; (i) providing overall management of the on-going SZOPAD Social Fund Project, which is fast tracking the implementation of community-based subprojects in the former SZOPAD area; (ii) leading the transition of the SZOPAD Fund Management Office (FMO) from the present staffing structure to the proposed ASFPD Project organizational and staffing structure (currently being finalized); (iii) providing overall management for the pilot phase of the proposed ASFPD Project, currently scheduled to be launched by mid-2002; (iv) becoming the Executive Director of the ASFPD Project, once approved and operational.

A copy of the detailed terms of reference (TOR) for this position can be obtained by contacting the office of the ARMM Executive Secretary Nabil Tan (Office of the ARMM Regional Government, ARMM Complex, Cotabato City, tel. **064-421-1224-25** or ARMM Manila Liaison Office, RCI Building, 5th floor, Legaspi Village, Makati, tel., **02-814-0612**).

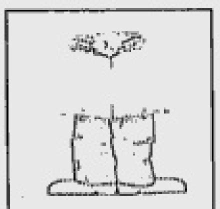
Qualified candidates are requested to submit their expression of interest to the above office, Attention of Executive Secretary Tan, and include the following items: letter stating interest in the position and providing a concise summary of the main reasons why the candidate presumes to be qualified for the position; a detailed curriculum vitaé, a birth certificate, copies of education degree(s), and 3 employment/professional references (with contact information). This information must be received not later than **May 10, 2002.**

The candidates will be screened based on selection criteria, and a short list of candidates will be interviewed by a panel comprised of the OP and the ARMM. The panel will rank them according to the following primary criteria:

(i) Relevant experience in managing and coordinating complex and multisectoral projects, involving multiple stakeholders; Mindanao experience is essential;
(ii) Effectiveness in leading multi-sectoral teams and strong leadership skills;
(iii) Relevant educational background and technical skills (including computer literacy);

Up to six of the highest ranked candidates will be requested to participate in an interview by the same panel which will assess the information in the application and rank them based upon their application. The three highest ranked candidates will be presented for final decision to the Office of the President for final appointment.

Candidates are requested to submit their application and supporting information not later than **May 10, 2002.** The terms of the consultancy contract will be renewable yearly, subject to performance, with a remuneration package consistent with "market-based rates" for Loan Projects in Mindanao.



From the nation's No. 1 Newspaper: INQUIRER

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

MOM

Your first teacher. Your staunch supporter.
Your premier adviser. Your no. 1 fan.
Anyway you look at it, there's simply no other
mother as wonderful as your mom.
This Mother's Day, let your mom know how
honored you are to have her as your mother.
Greet her on her special day in the
Mother's Day Special Section of the Inquirer Classifieds.
For a discounted rate of P50 per line
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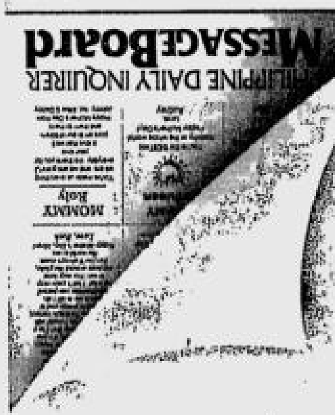
and appreciation for her
in a unique and loving way.
After all, for everything that she has done, isn't this just
a little something to thank her for giving you life –
and devoting hers to you as well?
And with your placement, your mom gets the chance to win
Avon, David's Salon or Body and Soul Spa gift certificates in our

MOM Makeover
RAFFLE PROMO



AVON color
how do you define beautiful?

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DAVID'S SALON

BODY & SOUL
Nature's Gift from Australia

PROMO MECHANICS

1. For every P200 worth of ad placement booked starting April 26, 2002 until May 11, 2002 for the Inquirer Classifieds Mother's Day Special Section on May 12, 2002, the customer is entitled to receive one (1) raffle coupon to the Mom Makeover raffle.
2. Fill up raffle coupon with your name, address, tel. no., your mother's name and affix signature, and drop in drop boxes located at Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts., 1231 Makati City.
3. Entries must be received by 5:00 pm of May 11, 2002 to qualify for the raffle draw during which 45 mothers/winners will receive any one (1) of the following:
   Fifteen (15) David's Salon gift certificates (consisting of shampoo, hair cut, blow-dry and hot oil services)
   Fifteen (15) Body and Soul Spa Treatments worth P2000
   Fifteen (15) Avon gift certificates worth P2000
4. The raffle draw will be held on May 17, 2002 at 3:00 pm at the PDI office in the presence of an official DTI representative.
5. An individual may send more than one entry but can only win once in the raffle draw. If drawn more than once, the winner gets the prize with the higher value.
6. Raffle prizes are non-transferable and not convertible to cash.
7. Raffle draw winners will be notified by phone and registered mail, and their names will be announced via print ads.
8. Winners can claim their prizes at the PDI office upon presentation of the notification letter and a valid ID.
9. Raffle prizes not claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification will be forfeited in favor of PDI with prior approval from DTI.
10. Gift Certificates are valid for one year and are acceptable at all branches.
11. Employees and staff of PDI, their advertising agency and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity and affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.
12. Promo is valid only in GMA.

For more details, visit or call any of our branches:

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Rates are VAT inclusive and apply only on the May 12 issue.

PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 1873, SERIES OF 2002.

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"You will forever be in our hearts, DADDY"

Atty. Joaquin "Bobby" P. Yuseco, Jr.

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on April 29, 2002 at the age of 77.

His loving wife **Hortensia Zialcita Yuseco**; children **Roberto, Isabel San Pablo, Rosanna** and **Glenn Cortes** (†), and **Noel** and **Aiveth Dy Cruz-Yuseco**; grandchildren **Czarina, Michael, Antonio,** and **Alicia**; sisters **Nena del Rosario, Janina** and **Andres Narvasa Sr.**, and **Rosario** and **Rodolfo Tolentino**; in-laws, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His cremated remains lie at the Holy Family Chapel in Mt. Carmel Church, Doña Juana Rodriguez Avenue, Broadway New Manila, Quezon City.

Funeral Mass will be celebrated at the Holy Family Chapel on Thursday, May 2, 2002 at 9:00 a.m.

PURIFICACION CORDERO RICAFORT

of Candaba, Pampanga

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
*to join her husband **Ramon P. Ricafort** on April 28, 2002*
at the age of 95.

Her bereaved children **Ramon** and **Josefina Jose, Jesus** and **Helen Bautista, Antonio** and **Concepcion Recaido, Tomas** and **Magdalena Roque, Concepcion** and **Alberto Sardellitto, Marina** and **Antonio Pezzi, Francisco** and **Teresita Dizon** and **Gilda** and **Bert Wong**; her grandchildren, great grandchildren, nephews and nieces and other relatives and friends request the pious reader to offer a prayer for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her mortal remains lie in state at Mt. Carmel Parish, Doña Juana Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be at Loyola Memorial Park Marikina on Friday, May 3, 2002 after the 9:00 in the morning Mass.

JUVENCIO C. VILLACASTIN, M.D.

June 1, 1931 - April 26, 2002

His loving wife **Luningning**; his loving children **Toby & Joy, Aimee & Butch Bretaña, Michelle & Mike Hedenskoog** and **Christine**; grandchildren **JV, Claire, Niño, Paolo & Pauline**; brothers, sisters and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at 72 Quezon Avenue, Digos City, Davao del Sur.

Interment will be on Saturday, May 4, 2002 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Mary Mediatrix of All Graces Cathedral.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

ALEXANDER ROBERT "Bobby" CALDERON GORDON

Who peacefully joined his Creator on April 18, 2002.

His bereaved wife **Zenaida "Aida"**; children **George** and **Bettina Tabuena, Gabby** and **Verna Fouts, Gina** and **Oscar Coscolluela III**; grandchildren **David** and **Sarah, Stevie, Javi** and **Johann**; brothers and sisters **Dee** and **Nene Gonzaga, Nonotte** and **Marilou Viaplana, John** and **Terry Catedral, Betty Mae** and **Ernie Tanguilig**; brother-in-law **Oscar Gonzales** and wife **Lydia**; nephews and nieces, and other relatives convey our sincerest thanks to all those who condoled with us, offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy, went to the wake and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and in many unknown countless ways assisted in the hour of our bereavement.

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PHILIPPINE CARABAO CENTER
Department of Agriculture

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Philippine Carabao Center (PCC), created under Republic Act No. 7307, an attached agency of the Department of Agriculture, is inviting interested Filipino Contractors or firms with a valid license issued by the Philippine Contractor Accreditations Board (PCAB) and classified as Category AAA, to apply for prequalification and submit bids for the following project at the PCC National Gene Pool and Headquarters at Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija described below:

PCC RESEARCH AND TRAINING FACILITIES PHASE III

Both license and certificate must be unexpired before the prequalification, evaluation, after opening of bids and during the entire duration of the project.

The sequence of dates for carrying out this prequalification and bid shall be as follows:

1. Issuance of the Pre-C Form upon payment of non-refundable fee of P600.00, **May 10 to 16, 2002** at the Office of the Executive Director. Incomplete applications shall not be accepted.
2. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished prequalification statement is on **May 23, 2002.**
3. Notice of prequalified and predisqualified contractors will be issued not later than **June 24, 2002.** Only prequalified contractors shall be invited to submit proposals.
4. Issuance of Bid-Tender Forms, Plans Specification and Requirement Forms, **June 25 to 28, 2002** at the Office of the Executive Director, upon payment of P1,500.00 which amount is non-refundable.
5. Pre-Bidding conference is scheduled at 10:00 A.M. on **August 14, 2002** at the Office of the Executive Director, 5th Floor, DCIEC Building, NIA Compound, EDSA, Quezon City.
6. Submission of duly accomplished bid-tender and supplemental documents shall not be later than 10:00 A.M. on **August 28, 2002,** at the Office of the Executive Director, 5th Floor, DCIEC Building, NIA Compound, EDSA, Quezon City after which opening of bids will be done immediately.

All particulars relative to the prequalification, bid bond, pre-bid conference, evaluation and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of P.D. 1594 and its implementing rules and regulations as amended.

The Philippine Carabao Center reserves the right to reject any or all proposals or waive any defect or required formality therein and to award the project to the proponent whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **LIBERTADO C. CRUZ**
Chairman
Prequalifications, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI - May 1, 2 & 3, 2002)

PHILIPPINE 2000

Republika ng Pilipinas
KAGAWARAN NG KAGALINGANG PANLIPUNAN AT PAGPAPAUNLAD
(DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT)
BATASAN PAMBANSA COMPLEX,
CONSTITUTION HILLS, QUEZON CITY

2004

Council for the Welfare of Children
No. 10 Apo St., Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City

Early Childhood Development Project
Asian Development Bank Loan No. ADF 1607 PH

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in financing the Early Childhood Development Project (ECDP). Part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied for eligible payments for the conduct of a research study entitled "The Efficacy of Vitamin A and Iron Fortified Wheat Flour in Improving the Iron Status of School Children."
2. The Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC), an attached agency of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, now invites eligible research institutions/agencies to apply for pre-qualification for the provision of consulting services to undertake the above-mentioned research study.
3. Interested research institutions may obtain information and secure a complete set of pre-qualification form, upon presentation of a letter of intent, starting **May 6-17, 2002** from Mr. Igmidio Mike Conde, Administrative Officer of the Council for the Welfare of Children at No. 10 Apo St., Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City with telephone numbers: **(02) 740-8864, 743-8375** and fax no. **(02) 743-8374.** Deadline for the submission of duly notarized accomplished pre-qualification forms, SEC registration, constitution and by-laws, company profile and other related documents is on **May 20, 2002** at 1:00 p.m.

(Sgd.) **RHODA F. YAP**
Assistant Secretary & BAC Chairperson

(PDI - May 1 & 2, 2002)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

The National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that it will be conducting sealed Sale Through Market Determined Pricing (SMDP) among all interested buyers at NFA Central Office, Boardroom, 10/F, 101 Matimyas Bldg. E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City, for the sale of local and imported refined sugar, particulars as follows:

WITHDRAWAL PERIOD : VOLUME (in Lkg.)
MAY : 125,000 Lkg.
JUNE : 125,000 Lkg.
JULY : 125,000 Lkg.
AUGUST : 125,000 Lkg.

COLOR (ICUMSA Units) max : 45 (Imported) 100 (Local)
INDICATIVE PRICE : P1,200 per Lkg.
BID BOND : 5% of the total price offer
PERFORMANCE BOND : 10% of the bid price in the form manager's/cashier's check or thru Irrevocable Letter of Credit
PRE-AUCTION DATES/TIME : 7 May 2002 (13 May 2002 in case of failure or for any balance of the first auction) 2:00 p.m.
AUCTION DATES : 9 may 2002 (15 May 2002 in case of failure or for any balance of the first auction) 2:00 p.m.

Bid documents will be available on **May 6, 2002** after the Pre-SMDP conference and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,000.00. Interested bidders may secure terms and conditions starting **May 7, 2002** from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Directorate for Marketing Operations (Operations and Coordinations Division), 5th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City or may contact at Telephone No. 712-1572.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all, waive any informality thereof and accept only such bids that are advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) **ANTHONY R. A. ABAD**
Administrator

(PDI - May 1 & 2, 2002)

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Hottest careers for yuppies, umpies

By Ernie O. Cecilia

OBVIOUSLY, the business of doing business has changed radically because of technology and globalization. These changes have also dramatically affected the jobs and careers in the new workplace. Given this scenario, what are the hottest careers for young professionals (yuppies) and upwardly mobile professionals (umpies) today?

Despite the ups and downs in the information technology (IT) industry, there continues to be promising and great careers in the digital world, particularly in these five industry segments—Internet, software, hardware, peripherals and semiconductors.

Dynamic industry

The IT industry requires young, dynamic, flexible career people with entrepreneurial mindset and abilities. The industry culture is usually casual—yo[illegible]an wear denims, call each [illegible] by first names, and w[illegible]xible but long hours. I[illegible]s great excitement, risk a[illegible] opportunities to make the rules in this relatively new field as you build your own career.

Young and ambitious persons with the proper education and mindset will most likely succeed as project manager, technical producer, webmaster, programming engineer, system or information architect, creative director, software engineer, product specialist, graphic artist, technical writer, product manager, systems engineer or technical support staff.

An IT-related "sunrise" business that offers immediate careers is the call center. This is an area where the Philippines is globally competitive because of the availability of English-speaking and easily trainable workforce. Within the next few years, about 24,000 new jobs will be available in several call centers that will be set up in your neighborhood, and the callers from America, Europe or Australia will never know that they are talking to petite Filipinas.

Customer focus

Customer focus remains to be the top core competence of any business enterprise. As customers dictate the rules in the market, sales and customer services staff will be required by both large and small companies to compete for the customers' attention and pesos.

Sufficient product knowledge, which can be learned through training, and a high degree of interpersonal skills, patience, and charm will help interested persons to succeed in sales and customer service careers.

However, many large companies will tend to focus and have control over their marketing function and simply contract out the selling, distribution and customer service functions, if not hire temporary and seasonal sales force. For the regular sales force, high and escalating commissions will spice up low basic salaries.

Market knowledge

No businessman will survive in a dog-eats-dog market, unless he knows the market like the back of his palm. For businesses to have a successful romance with the market, they must know the intimate details about the market and the consumers through research, advertising and related marketing activities.

As large multinationals tend to relocate their manufacturing facilities in more cost-effective locations, what will remain on our shores are marketing and sales outfits. Ambitious and creative persons can get employed as market researchers, research assistants, advertising copywriters, advertising models, copy editors, production assistants, designers and other creative artists or writers.

Advertising field

Top advertising agencies have a tendency to replenish their stock of creative people by injecting fresh blood from the ranks of fresh graduates or enticing others from the fold of their friendly competitors. However, in this kind of industry, skill is not enough—you have to have talent!

The media, communications and public relations are a truly exciting field for yuppies. As more businesses strive to create better understanding with their customers and other stakeholders, one cannot over-emphasize the importance of packaging key messages for various publics.

Media channels

The tri-media, public relations departments or independent PR firms, and large companies with corporate communication departments offer great careers to ambitious, articulate people with a lot of emotional intelligence. These fields offer rewarding careers for women and creative, flexible men.

Newspapers, magazines and other publications are constantly in search of fresh talents to do writing, editing, printing, layout, circulation managing, research, encoding, and a whole lot of other activities up to distribution of the finished products. The radio and television are also in need of front liners and back office workers such as radio and TV talents, producers, scriptwriters, screenplay writers, copy editors, VTR editors, production assistants, advertising solicitors, technical support staff, and related jobs.

Health industry

Healthcare, personal services, hospitality and tourism-related jobs abound for people who have both the skills and the knack for them. Advances in health and science succeeded in increasing the life span of people, but the latter will need continuing care and medication. Doctors, nurses, physical therapists, and caregivers are increasingly in demand here, although the United States, Canada and the rest of the western world, where the population is now aging, are in more dire need of the healthcare and personal services career persons.

Laura Sharpe reports that in the USA, "Each graduating physicians' assistant from the nation's 51 programs this year had an average of 6.3 job offers. The average salary? $56,568 per year."

Tourism

In the hospitality and tourism-related businesses, ambitious and service-oriented persons can make great careers as tour guides, front desk officers, account executives, tour coordinators, booking office assistants, etc.

For those who want to explore the possibility of migrating to the USA, Canada, the United Kingdom and other countries, "caregiving" has become a choice profession that pays off well.

Own business

After spending some time in the workplace, yuppies tend to look for alternatives to working for a boss—being their own boss. Being your own boss is both rewarding and threatening. You'll have to give up the comfort of the regular paychecks, benefits, and resources at your disposal. Being on your own entails a vision, a plan, capital, infrastructure, knowledge of your own business, a mindset and culture, and most of all, stewardship skill. You don't have to start big—in fact, many big businesses started out small.

Those with both talent and entrepreneurial mindset and abilities will likely succeed in businesses that they are familiar with, have the knack for, and are interested in. First, find out what will sell, what are needed. Find a need and fill it—it's as simple as that!

If you have enough knowledge, experience, skill, and credibility, and a good "brand name" (your own name that you have nurtured all these years), you can even be a consultant and charge your former employer five times more than you earned when you were in his employ.

(The author is president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center. He has written, among others, the twin career books "How to Get a Job" and "How to Keep Your Job", available at National Book Store, Power Books and Bookmark. He can be reached at erniec@edsamail.com.ph. *Catch him live on May 28, Tuesday, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Equitable PCI Bank Auditorium, Makati Ave., Makati City, in his seminar on "Developing Personal Mastery." Call 414-0186 to register.)*

ILLUSTRATION BY JED ESTRADA

Learn from endings

RECIPES *for* LEARNING
Moje Ramos Aquino

MABUHAY ang mga manggagawang Filipino! Long live people at work!

Here's my labor day gift for people at work: read the book "Tuesdays with Morrie" by Mitch Albom. This is for you if:

- you want to know how to lead your own life and be a shining example to others
- you are bored with life and are looking for meaning and purpose in your daily existence and in your work
- you are having problems with your family, career and/or relationships
- you are very sick or facing death
- you are grappling with issues of being human and relating to others
- you are looking for a good gift for yourself and for others to mark Labor Day, bolster your sense of self and personal leadership, and restore your zest for life

Book on life

I just finished reading this wonderful book given to me by a former boss and very good friend, Atty. Benru del Rosario. In fact, I have already read it twice and intend to read it again until I have committed to heart the very spiritual thoughts and philosophies of Morrie Schwartz and put them into practice in my own life.

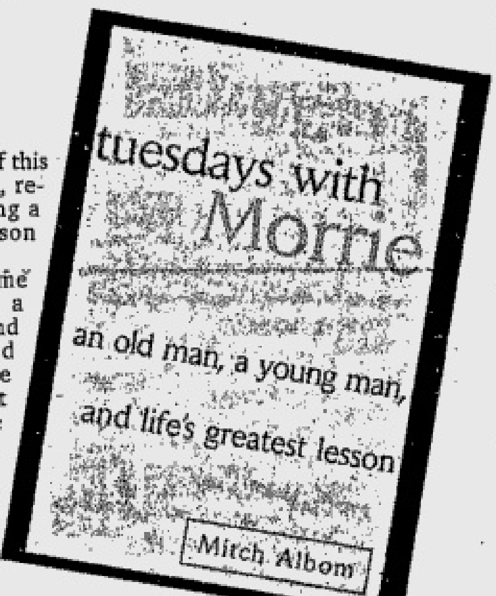
Morrie's very life and words fit a story that has been circulating through e-mail these days, the gist of which is "you better live your life well; you might be the only bible that another person will read." This is the power of modelling which is a very important tool of a leader. Morrie's living his dying days is a research, a human textbook where essential lessons could be learned. As his body weakened, his spirits soared and touched others in more poignant and spiritual ways.

Lifting prose

Let me share with you the simple, yet lilting and lifting prose of Mitch Albom. The book is far from being mushy or preachy. I must admit that it is making me rethink my own world view, attitudes and my life.

You'll do yourself and the people around you a great service by reading this book. If you feel like it, cry. As Morrie said, "It's okay to cry. Experience your emotion fully and completely." During and after reading the book, I had a good time crying and cleansing my heart and soul. I cried unabashedly from Manila to Singapore to Mauritius and to Johannesburg. I intend to read and reread the book and have a liberal dose of crying as I enjoy the beauty of South Africa for two weeks. I intend to come out of this vacation cleansed, refreshed and feeling a brand new person again.

Here are some ways of living a meaningful life and leading self and others from Morrie and Mitch. Still, it is best to read these lines direct from the book and in context.



tuesdays with Morrie
an old man, a young man, and life's greatest lesson
Mitch Albom

Quotes

"Accept what you are able to do and not able to."

"Accept the past as past; without denying it or discarding it."

"Learn to forgive others and to forgive yourself."

"Don't assume that it is too late to get involved."

"Death should not be embarrassing."

"Now that I am dying, I've become much more interesting to people. I'm on the last great journey here—and people want me to tell them what to pack."

"I had become too wrapped up in the siren call of my own life."

"Dying is only one thing to be sad about. Living unhappily is something else."

"Love wins. Love always wins."

"The most important thing in life is to learn how to give out love, and to let it come in."

Last day

"What if today is my last day on earth? The culture doesn't encourage you to think about such things until you are about to die. We're so wrapped up in egotistical things, career, family, having enough money, meeting the mortgage, having the new car fixed. Fixing the radiator when it breaks—we're involved in trillions of little acts just to keep going. So we don't get into the habit of standing back and looking at our lives and saying: Is this all? Is this all I want? Is something missing?"

"Everybody knows we are going to die but nobody believes it. If we did, we would do things differently. We might have to make room for something spiritual."

"Once you learn how to die, you learn how to live."

"Don't cling to things because everything is impermanent."

"What we take, we must replenish."

"I mourn my dwindling time but I cherish the times it gives me to make things right."

These are challenging thoughts for leading others.

"The culture we have does not make people feel good about themselves. We're teaching the wrong things. And if you are strong enough to say if the culture doesn't work, don't buy it. Create your own."

"The tension of opposites. Life is a series of pulls back and forth. You want to do one thing, but you are bound to do something else. Something hurts, yet you know it shouldn't. You take certain things for granted, even when you know you should never take anything for granted."

Meaningful life

"So many walk around with meaningless life. They seem half-asleep, even when they're busy doing things they think are important. This is because they're chasing the wrong things. The way you get meaning into your life is to devote yourself to loving others, to the community around you, to creating something that gives you purpose and meaning."

"If you are ever going to have other people trust you, you must feel that you can trust them, too—even when you are in the dark. Even when you are falling."

Open heart

"If you are trying to show off for people at the top, forget it. They will look down at you anyhow. And if you are trying to show off for people at the bottom, forget it. They will envy you. Status can get you nowhere. Only an open heart will allow you to float equally between everyone."

"Don't let go too soon, but don't hang on too long."

"Be compassionate and take responsibility for each other. If we only learned those lessons, this world would be so much better a place."

"Forgive yourself. Forgive others. Don't wait."

"There is no formula to relationship. They have to be negotiated in loving ways, with room for both parties, what they want and what they need, what they can do and what their life is like."

"There is no such thing as 'too late' in life. He was changing until the day he said goodbye."

"The teaching goes on."

(Send feedback to Moje.Ramos@Aquino.ZZN.com.*)*

Former student...

(From page B12)

other marginalized sectors should participate to ensure ownership and involvement. Then, all the sectors can develop their mission and strategies aligned with the country's vision. Visioning will allow all sectors to optimize resources available for them in meeting the country's master plan for development. This will only happen with excellent process facilitators and through honest and sincere effort of leadership. The exercise should not be perceived as a political circus. We have seen how Singapore today has reached first world-class status because of its purposive vision of the future.

Unity amidst diversity will provide us the engine to move forward. For as long as we continue with our "island mentality" and persist following the "us against them" syndrome, we will forever be racked with dissent and instability. Having a unifying vision can be a starting step.

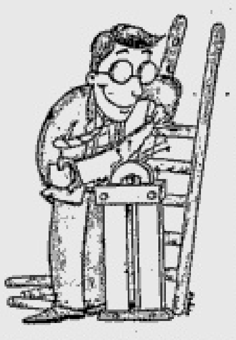
As for your decision to migrate, I can only say you have already made your decision. God bless and continue to pray that our country will find the collective will to move forward. Thank you for your letter.

A brief announcement: Calling all alumni of the Asian Institute of Management. On May 10, a free lecture will be given by Frank Borromeo, president and CEO of Asian Capital Equities on the principles of "Rich Dad, Poor Dad," a book I mentioned in my last column. Call AIM for details.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice through e-mail to ancillaedc@ pacific.net.ph or fax to 892-2902.)

PEOPLE*at*WORK COMMUNITY
Resources & Events

PEOPLE*at*WORK *Live!* Seminar Series



THE SECOND quarter offering of the People at Work Live! Seminar Series is on Key Competencies. On May 28, Ernie Cecilia, president of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, will discuss "Developing Personal Mastery." On May 29, Josie Santamaria, president of Career Systems, Inc., will talk on "Increasing Your Emotional Intelligence for Workplace Results." On May 30, Lirio Mapa, vice president of the Center for Leadership and Change, Inc., will tackle "Building Synergy for Organizational Excellence." These topics will enable people at work to gain key competencies on the personal, interpersonal and organizational levels.

In celebration of the second year anniversary of People at Work section, a bonus seminar awaits those purchasing six tickets. For every six paid registrations, one free seat will be given in a seminar on "Measuring the Return On Investment (ROI) on Human Capital." This will be conducted by Norman Raimon, regional senior HR consultant of Mercer Human Resources Consulting Group on May 30 from 2:30 to 5:00 p.m.

All sessions will be held at the Equitable PCI Bank Auditorium, Makati Ave., Makati City. For more information or to register, call tel. no. 414-0186, 414-0587 or visit www.match.ph.

IN THE May issue of Metro Working Mom, PaW editor Regina Galang Reyes writes on how passion or the lack of it makes you either a Cinderella or a Sleeping Beauty. She gives a step-by-step guide on how to put or renew passion in your life and work.

STUDIO 23'S "BREAKFAST"

STUDIO 23's "Breakfast," which airs Monday to Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., features a People at Work segment every Monday. For May 6, the topic is "How to Develop Your Emotional Intelligence" with Ms Josie Santamaria, Career Systems Inc. president, as guest.

NEWS AT WORK

Chinatrust's new appointments

CHINATRUST (Philippines) president Joey A. Bermudez announces the appointments of new senior officers in the organization.

Marichu Daisy S. Jimenea joins Chinatrust as head of Credit Cycle for Retail Banking and Special Accounts Management. She was first vice president for Collections in PSBank where she streamlined the insurance business and supervised the sale and disposition of repossessed assets.

Marithel Luna is Chinatrust's new first vice president and Strategic Planning head. Luna had extensive exposures to credit administration, policy development, deposit generation, portfolio management and compliance. She was first vice president and head of PSBank's corporate banking group.

Suzanne Aquino is Chinatrust's new assistant vice president and head for financial institutions under the treasury group. With over 18 years of experience in corporate banking, Aquino had vast exposures in account management, correspondent and international banking, credit evaluation and portfolio management.

Catherine Alonso is Chinatrust's new assistant vice president and head for marketing services. She built her career in corporate communications and marketing services. She will take charge of the bank's marketing communications campaigns and corporate affairs.

Mercer's new name

HUMAN resource consulting firm William M. Mercer now operates as Mercer Human Resource Consulting.

Mercer has been regarded as a world leader in retirement and employee benefits consulting for more than 50 years now. It has greatly extended its consulting capabilities and advises clients on human resource issues. The new name better reflects Mercer's current range of service offerings.

Mercer is also launching *www.mercerHR.com*, replacing *wmmercer.com*. It provides access to the firm's global intellectual capital, do-it-yourself tools for HR professionals, and products that users can purchase online. The site offers content in six languages and may be navigated fully in English and French. The firm's investment consulting practice, on the other hand, is branded as Mercer Investment Consulting and have its own section on Mercer's web site, *www.mercerIC.com*.

e-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.

PEOPLE at WORK

Editor Raul O. Marcelo Subsection Editor Regina Galang Reyes

LABOR DAY BLUES

Former student leader finds country's future bleak

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice
FOR THE
ANXIOUS PERSON
AT WORK

THREE days ago, I quit my job. I am 28 years old. Since four years ago, my family has been encouraging me to migrate and join them in Canada. So, I am now preparing to leave. Why am I writing you this letter? I want to justify to myself (and to you) why I am leaving. It is really a sad event for me.

I was a student leader and class valedictorian in my college days. I was full of ideals and hope for our country. I was ready to contribute my talents and capabilities to rebuild our nation. But I became very disappointed. All I see are politicians feuding, more preoccupied with their narrow self interests rather than what is good for the country. Do you think they are proposing to amend the constitution because it will be good for the country? No. I believe it is because they want to further their interests.

I am also alarmed by the fragmented way we are addressing the problems of the country. The problems are clear. You mentioned them in an earlier column. But what is the government doing? Frankly, I do not see the rhyme or reason to government programs. We simply react. With globalization, how can the Philippines possibly compete? We mouth anti-poverty statements, but is something substantive happening or is this all rhetoric? What action have they taken to create jobs? I think the future for the country is bleak.

I attended your recent talk in the People at Work Live! Seminar Series. I also know that your work is to help companies transform themselves. What do you think the country can do to turn around its sad condition? If the Philippines were a business enterprise, what would you suggest? I hope to catch your column in Canada at the PDI web site. Thank you.

Reluctant Migrant

Every time someone frustrated and disappointed writes to me, I get depressed. But I always go back to my training as an organization development consultant. Using fuzzy logic, we know that current realities are not black and white; they may in fact be in different shades of gray. This means that even in the most difficult situations, there are opportunities for improvement. We should see the light and not just the shadows.

Politicians

It is true that we are beset by many problems as a country today. But we are aware that with or in spite of politicians, other sectors continue to function and function well. The private sector continues to drive the country's economy. Non-governmental organizations are responding in unprecedented numbers to the challenge of poverty. On the religious front, there is greater solidarity and dialogue among the different religions, which alleviates the problems in the South. Reform groups are coming out with alternative and well-studied proposals and not just protesting in strident voices.

Reforms

Even in the government sector, there are noticeable changes where there is will power to implement reforms. I can cite to you three examples. Recently, you may have experienced how quickly you can now get your passport at the Department of Foreign Affairs. If you drive, notice how streamlined is the process of getting your license. Then, at *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas*, there is the effort to help banks achieve greater stability through proper risk management in the "Corporate Governance Program."

Process reengineering, coupled with technology that makes processes transparent, goes a long way towards eliminating graft and corruption. We hope that the government trains it sights also on the Bureau of Customs and the Land Registrar's Office.

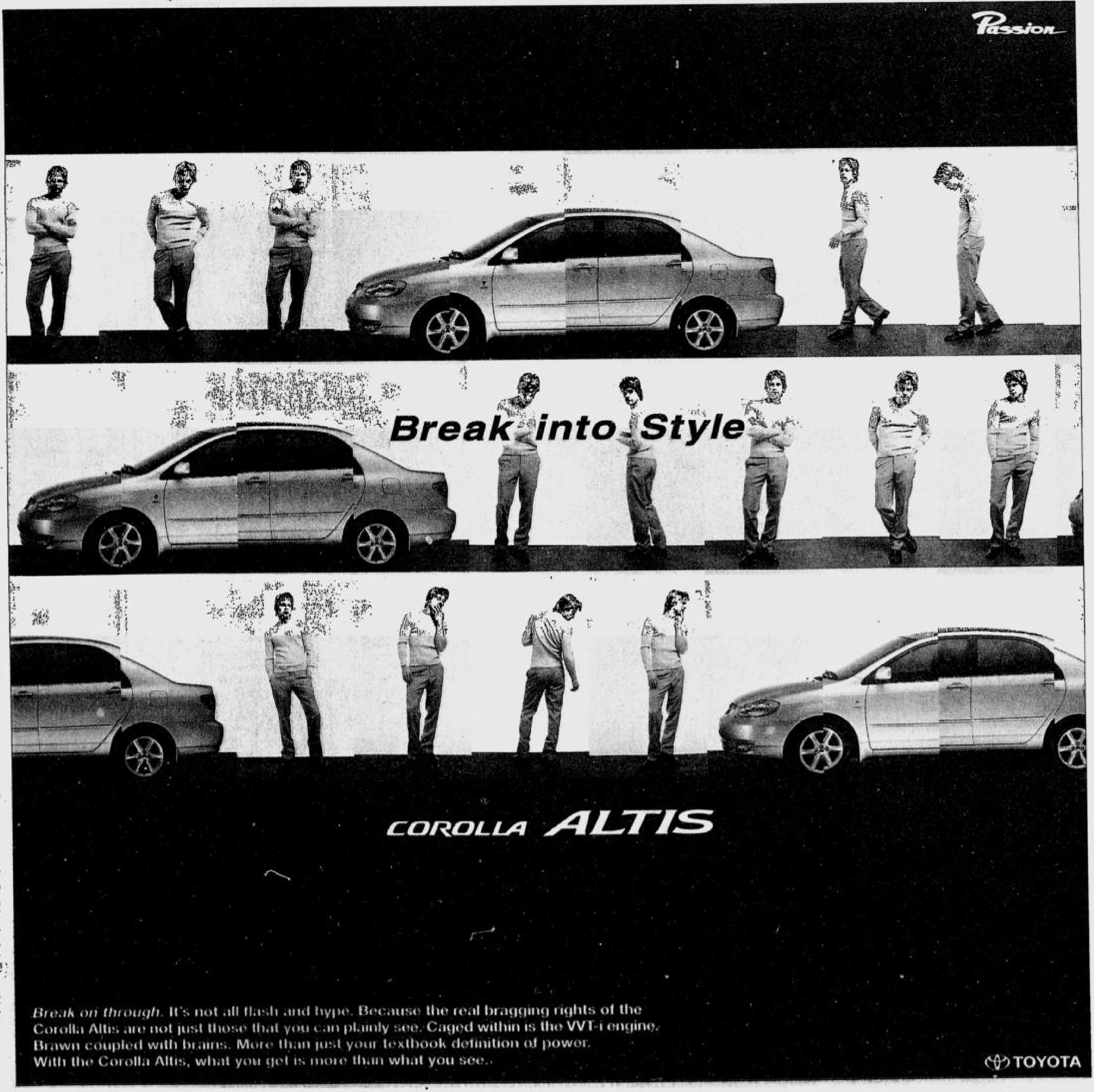
Change principles

How can we apply in government what we use in the private sector? We recognize it is not as easy as transferring change technology from the private sector to government. Government is a bigger system—more cumbersome and bureaucratic and with no driver like survival or profits that demand action. But the same change principles apply.

There are two ways to change. One is to discuss and tackle the problems in the present condition with the hope that this will give the government the energy to address them. But discussing problems at the onset can be depressing. And we Filipinos love to discuss and propose but are slow to act. We can also get lulled with the melodrama of what has gone wrong and often seek scapegoats for our current situation. The other way is to create a shared vision of what we want to be five years from now. A vision creates the creative tension that allows more stretch and proactive action. Former President Fidel Ramos had the vision and he drove the bureaucracy to achieve his vision.

So, how can this government do better? The government can take the lead in gathering the different sectors of society to develop a vision using the "visioning exercise." Government, business, nongovernmental organizations, religious, academe, the poor and

FORMER STUDENT/B11



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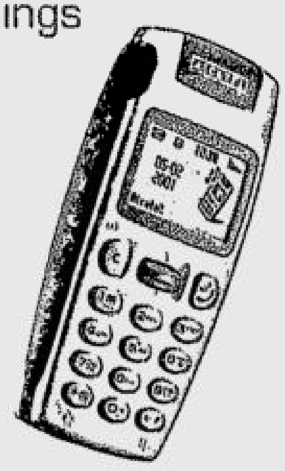

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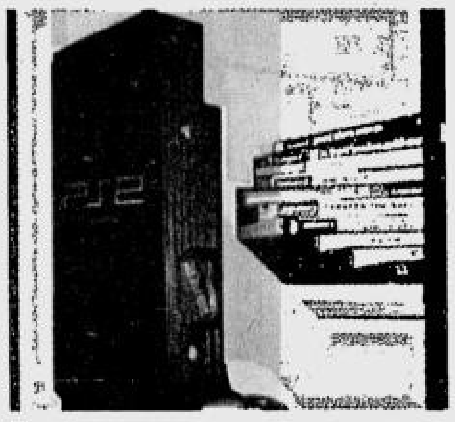

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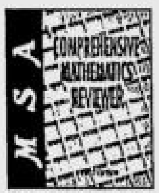
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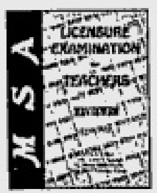
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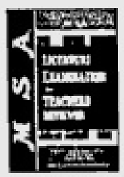
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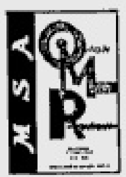
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ALL CLIENTS ARE SCHEDULED BY APPOINTMENT*

Meet the mind-blogging Net writers

By Catherine Young
2bU! Correspondent

BLOGS, a kind of online journal, is fast becoming a part of the Internet cul-ture. Like almost everything else on the Net, freedom of speech is the basic premise that popularized weblogs (or blogs). This, and the fact that one can start one in a matter of minutes and not pay anything at all. These online journals used to be just a log of events in a person's day; now, they have become more personal, blurring the line between weblogs and online diaries.

Some years ago, there were only a few weblogs that were in existence. Now, there are thousands that are available to any surfer anywhere in the world. With blogs, one can access someone else's thoughts, ideas and experiences. The access is somehow exhibitionism, especially for the more expressive ones.

The proliferation of these blogs has spawned varied writing styles. Reading them is like reading a Peter Mayle book, or looking at your nearest graffiti-covered bathroom door. Some are angsty, some witty. Others are a class by themselves.

The Bridget Joneses

Wit is a popular style evoked by many bloggers, maybe to imitate the first bloggers, Evan Williams and Meg Hourihan. Chris Taylor, writer for Time magazine, is one of the newer bloggers who greets his readers with, "Welcome to Daily Blah; come in, sit down, have you lost weight? You're looking gorgeous. What an excellent choice you've made to come to this website, but I wouldn't expect anything less from an intellectual giant like yourself. I like how you're doing your hair. Is that a new dress? What do you mean, flattery will get me everywhere?" In any case, these blogs deal truthfully and candidly with everyday lives, making each blogger a star in his/her very own soap opera.

CAREY. She actually has time to write.

Blogging in the creek

Another popular style is the angsty, "Dawson's Creek"-like type. Those who overthink and overanalyze their lives may find themselves typing every single detail that happened in their day and trying to psychoanalyze themselves, not unlike those characters on the TV show. Take Anna (annakiss.blogspot.com), for example: "I am not aching for understanding as perhaps I once was, when I was younger, full of the need for attention. I do not long for the eyes of some other to come evaluate my being. I write here for no other reason that to write..." Entries about nothing and everything can be quite lengthy, but sometimes they are the better-written blogs.

The Carrie Bradshaws

Then there are the sexy blogs. Some may be mellow ones for the hopeless romantics, with many bloggers getting together and giving out advice. Others are for the more daring ones, with entries that are more inhibition-free, such as Reina Kristel's "A blog to remember" (reina. simplenecessity.com), who presents herself as "leading a rather tedious life which is why she intends to elope with the first man (hopefully blessed with rugged good looks) who would ask for her hand in marriage and who would vow his everlasting loyalty to her." Kinky bloggers are not uncommon, although many have obscenities injected all throughout and may not be as well written as others. Come on, there's a limit to the number of four-letter words you can take in one sitting.

Analyze this

Some bloggers are particularly news-oriented, commenting on world news or even local, sometimes trivial ones, giving us an alternative to CNN. "Two years ago, a man swallowed his false teeth while he was sleeping. He had them removed a couple of years ago. Why did he wait two years to see a doctor about this?" wonders the writer of todaysissues.net/blog. Many are linked to sites of journalistic satire, such as The Daily Probe (dailyprobe.com) and The Onion (theonion.com).

SEE RuPaul's journal as the "Gaytrix"

Online public journals have spawned different writing styles

Celebrity bloggers

Even the rich and famous have gotten into the act, with celebrities like Mariah Carey and Moby putting up entries in their websites. They become more accessible to their fans and consequently seem to be just like ordinary people with everyday experiences. Okay, maybe not so everyday experiences. In RuPaul's blog (rupaul.com), he writes, "I'm going to bed early tonight because I have a 6 a.m. call time to the set of 'Son of the Beach.' I play a character named Heinous Anos, who is trying to turn the world gay. The episode I'm in is called 'The Gaytrix.' My character wears all black and I'm not in drag. Too bad, because they're all gonna miss out on a fabulous piece of ass. Tee hee." Oh, dear God.

Angry bloggers

The great thing about blogs is that one can write about anything one wants. A blog is a venue to completely vent out one's anger instead of blowing up in public. In one blog (whypeoplesuck.net), two misanthropes eloquently release their hate for racists, cell phone users in theaters and even their next-door neighbor. Each entry is accompanied by a meter reading, and the background features a glaring red face to match the equally glaring red letters.

Of rhyme and reason

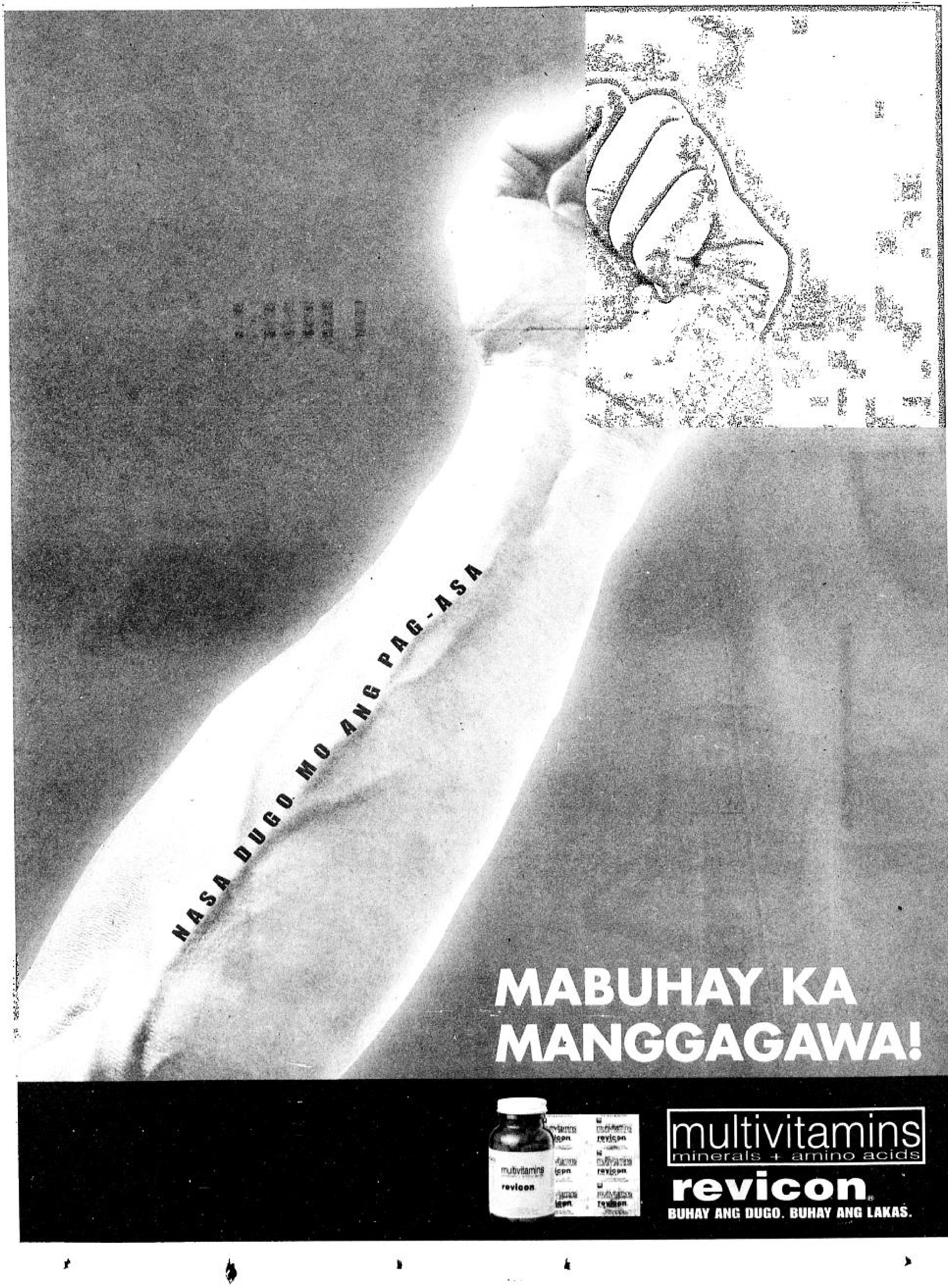
Within the world of the blog lies a gamut of poetry—a welcome change from the many blogs that are usually written in prose. Pam (nocturnal-angel.blogspot.com), 2bU!'s chief, writes, "I'm allergic to men/and their little boy antics/but hives don't break out/no rashes on my skin/my face doesn't bloat/my eyes don't pop out/I breathe just fine/I don't throw up...." Dan (walrus.nu), writes, "While the body/balks relaxing and/tenses recursively,/the brain has been/re-wiring itself/to instructions/in Chinese." Topics ranging from philosophy to elephants are at the surfer's fingertips, accessing the poet's innermost feelings and desires.

The metaphysicals and the monks

"Take care, know that a Scorpio moon on a Venus night leads to unexpected and possibly disturbing romantic feelings," writes Em Roth (emlynn.com/blogger_files/blogger.html) in her "Musings from the Metaphysical" blog. In "Diary of a Mad Monk" (leeks-and-roses.net/padre), ex-priest Dave Richardson writes in his April 24 entry, "The Pope, speaking ex cathedra from Rome, looked upon Cardinal Law yesterday and solemnly declared, 'You are the weakest link. Goodbye.' " These are but a couple of the many theme-blogs that cater to particular fields of interest—from anime to medicine.

Whatever the writing style of bloggers, it's obvious that they have a lot to say. Writing and being read have never been this easy, thanks to the cyberage. As long as there is free self-expression, blogging is here to stay.

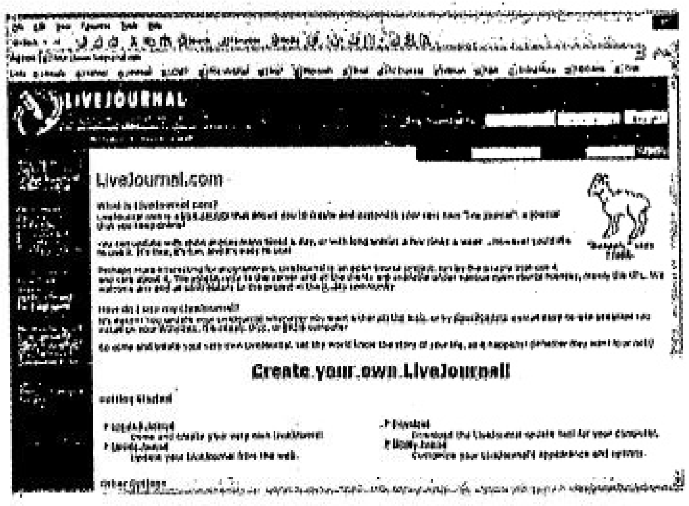
E-mail the author at unicorn@csi.com.ph



Enter the portal and find out what people are up to

By Cheryl Tiu and Catherine Young
2bU! Correspondents

BLOGS. What was once just an Internet-based record of one's daily events has become an online journal. Blog portals, or directories of people's blogs, have been mushrooming on the Net. Sometimes resembling online journals, these "sites" include personal essays, poetry and other writings about anything—in different languages, too. Enter these blog/journal portals and access the writer's thoughts. Maybe you'll get inspired to write one, too.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Blog/journal portals let you access the writer's thoughts and maybe inspire you to write one

www.livejournal.com

Here's the prototype of online journals. Livejournal, which won Best Personal Site in the 2001 People's Voice Awards, sets up accounts for its users (translation: the HTML has been done, so even computer dummies can join in on the fun). Each account has the standard format of date, time, mood, music, entry and comments, with an optional program, downloadable from the site that allows users to post directly to their Web logs without having to log on to the site. However, since colors are the only things that can be changed, the webpages tend to look similar unless users are willing to spend $5-15 for paid accounts that allow full customization of their pages.

The number of Livejournal users has increased radically that new users must look for a friend with a Livejournal account to get his/her code and create his/her own account from there. Livejournal users cannot link their pages to outside Web logs but only to fellow Livejournal clients.

www.deadjournal.com

How bizarre is it to set up an online journal called Deadjournal and "clone" the features of an already established site called Livejournal? This has earned Deadjournal sneers, despite its insistence on its "darkness." The main page proclaims, "We love pissed off people. If you're a pissed off person who hates incompetence, please sign up now!" Ha! Ha! Ha! Well, everyone's pissed off and everyone has pissed off entries, buddy! Mockery aside though, underneath its seemingly angst-y, gothic fronts, Deadjournal—with Livejournal-like format of date, time, mood, music, entry, comments—works just as well as its counterpart. It has one advantage—new users only have to sign up to get an account. An interesting feature of Deadjournal is the Statz Page that shows demographics of its users (i.e. the number of users per country, gender, age groups, etc.). It's comforting to see their concern for their clients.

www.pitas.com

For users' Web logs, Pitas gives people the chance to either rely on the site's already customized templates, or create and hone their HTML skills. Obviously, creating ensures that no two pages are alike although generally, most look like actual webpages with pictures/graphics and texts plastered all over. Every account comes with the URL of yourname.pitas.com, an automatic mental Post-It note. The site gives users the option to preset their entries from Day 1. All they have to do is enter their desired info (i.e. date, time, etc.) whenever they write, unlike other Web hosting sites that require a change of code every time. Pitas also automatically mentions in its Member Pages the 10 most recently updated entries.

www.eatonweb.com

One of the largest blog portals on the Net, Eatonweb gets plus points for organization. It is regularly updated, and each blog link is accompanied by pertinent information: the category, the language in which it was written, the country of origin. It is a surfer-friendly site, with a layout that is easy on the eyes, especially for those who spend hours on the Net—few eye-straining graphics and annoying advertisements here.

Everything is compact, too; most of blogger's features are listed on the main page instead of being distributed in different pages. If you're a blogger, you can click on the Bloglet link to be able to send e-mail to your readers about updates.

www.blogger.com

Another noteworthy portal and also one of the most popular, Blogger makes it easy for first-time users. It is one of the more established portals. Evan Williams, one of the first bloggers, is the president of Pyra Labs, the company that operates Blogger. Aside from the immense archive available (there are some Pinoy blogs, too), it provides a list of recently updated blogs, and the time when they were updated. For those eager to join the blog subculture immediately, a step-by-step guide to starting one is provided, making it easy to set one up in two minutes.

E-mail the authors at chloe_dominique@yahoo.com (Cher) and unicorn@csi.com.ph (Cathy)

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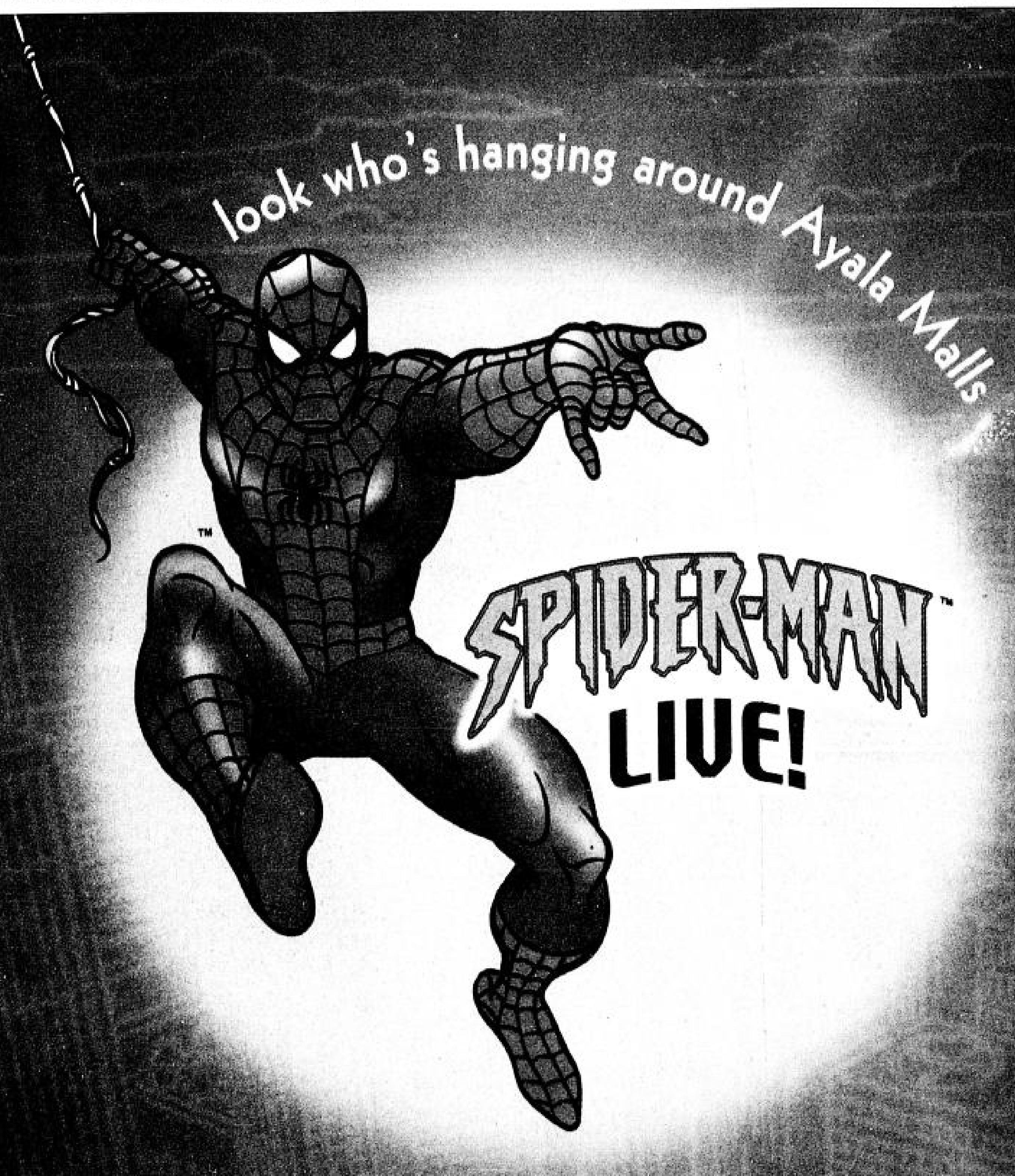
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May 5,6 & 7
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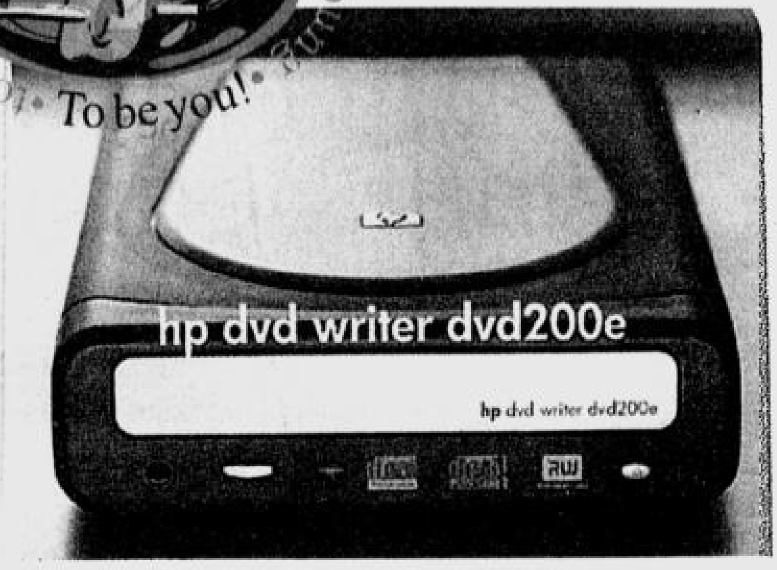
The day I crashed a geek convention

By Pam Pastor

hp dvd writer dvd200i

Here are Hewlett Packard's newest products. Even certified non-geeks will love these babies



"IS it just me or is he beginning to sound Greek?" I bit back my laughter upon reading Kap Aguila's note.

No. It wasn't just him. It was me, too. That particular speaker sounded Greek. Latin, even. Throw in German, too. The rest of the day, we sat through sessions of seemingly foreign-speaking experts. Actually, they were using English—tech-speak English laced with all sorts of accents.

That was my day at Hewlett Packard's Tech Academy 2002 in Hong Kong. Despite the intimidating name of the seminar, we had been promised it wouldn't be too technical. That wasn't exactly true. I should have known I was a bit out of my league upon reading the Excel document that listed the names of the different journalists from Asia and New Zealand.

While they rattled off "hardware, PCs, etc., etc.," my claimed expertise was "youth lifestyle." Whoopee. It didn't help either that some journalists (two to be exact), perhaps in the desire to prove their expertise, refused to stop asking too techie and repetitive questions.

It was also a disadvantage that I only had 10 minutes of shut-eye the previous night. We finished 2bU! really late and I hardly had any time to do anything but go home and pick up my stuff before dashing to the airport. And when I got to the hotel, I just dropped my stuff off and had to jump into the coaster and go. Tech-speak would be difficult enough to decipher with enough sleep, what more when you feel like you were floating around?

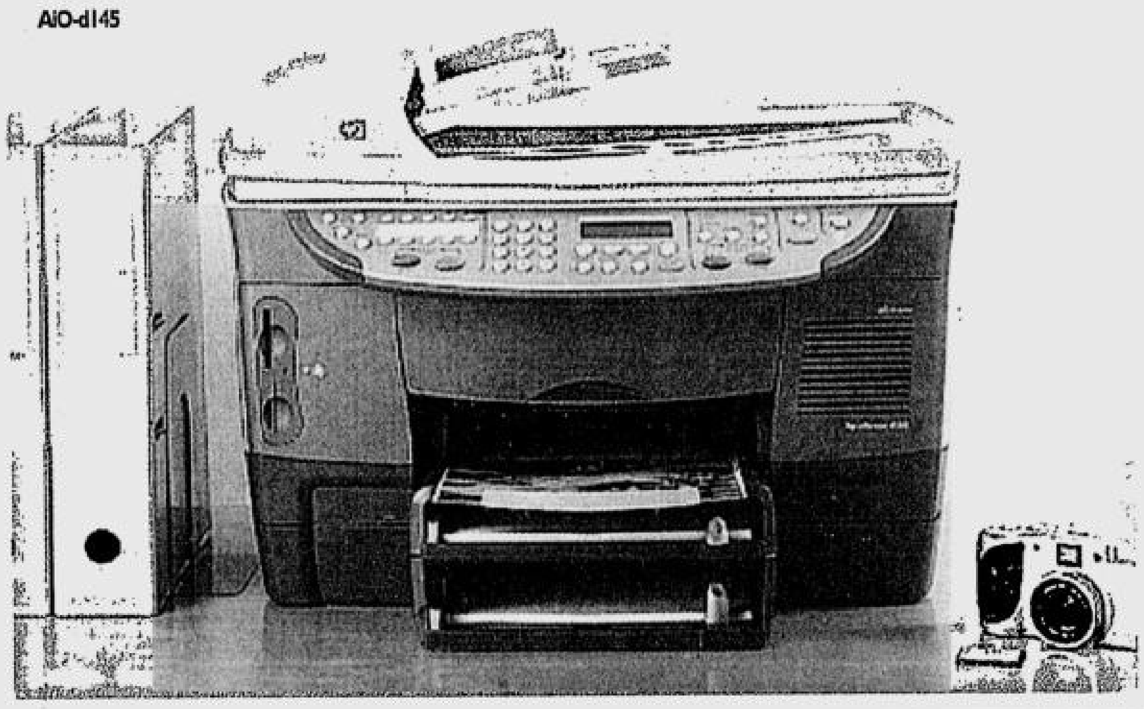
Good thing the newest HP products—which were the reasons behind the whole seminar anyway—jolted me awake (well, that and the thought of shopping for hours on end).

Enough rambling. Here they are:

AiO-d145

The All-in-one is a brilliant device that saves not just money but space and time. Imagine a machine the size of your Jurassic printer that can print, fax, scan and copy. Yep—repeat after me, wow. This little wonder is also referred to as a mini photo lab. The d145 has a built-in memory card reader that allows the user to produce contact prints from different digital cameras. You can perform simple printing tasks without hooking up the AiO to your personal computer. The d145 can print 19 black-and-white pages per minute or 16.8 colored pages per minute, and uses the HP PhotoREt 3 color layering technology. Small offices will benefit from this machine. Gadget enthusiasts will also love this. I sure wouldn't mind having an All-in-one beside my PC at home—too bad the 950 I had my heart set on will not be available in Manila.

AiO-d145



The Pavilion Home PCs

Serena Yong, the product marketing manager for HP Asia-Pacific, liked referring to these machines as "idea centers." She said that "HP Pavilion Home PCs unite all the strengths of HP products to empower consumers to invent." Depending on your choice, Pavilions can be transformed into a work area or your very own playground. This is not surprising because the people behind HP proudly proclaim they aim to deliver three things—good value, performance and usability.

DVD-writers

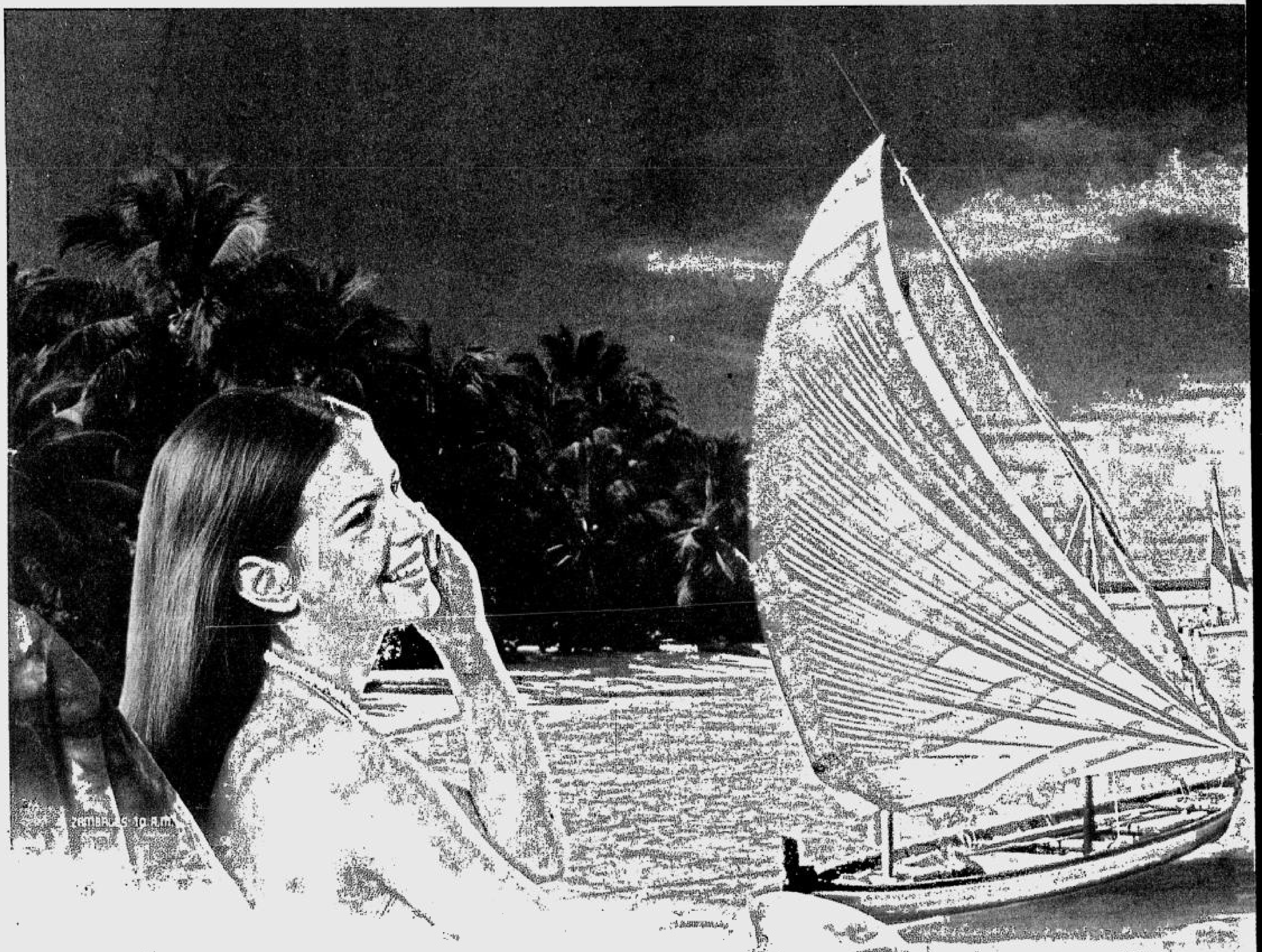
CD-writer fans, move over. If DVDs have enhanced your movie-watching experience, DVD-writers can change the way you store your treasured memories. You can create hi-tech photo albums for loved ones, complete with the perfect soundtrack. You can make mini videos of memorable occasions and have a blast while editing your clips.

HP will be coming out with two new DVD-writers—the DVD200I, which the HP people referred to as "the new generation storage technology," and the DVD200e, "the most advanced portable storage device."

We were oriented on the painstaking process that HP's experts go through to produce quality printers and inks in a long spiel that began with, "What is a perfect picture?" (Kap and I had to listen to that twice, actually.)

Although the seminar could have been a little more hands-on (as promised), we ended up learning a lot from that day's crash course in consumer technology.

Geek or no geek, you can only find the limits to what you can produce with these new products in your imagination.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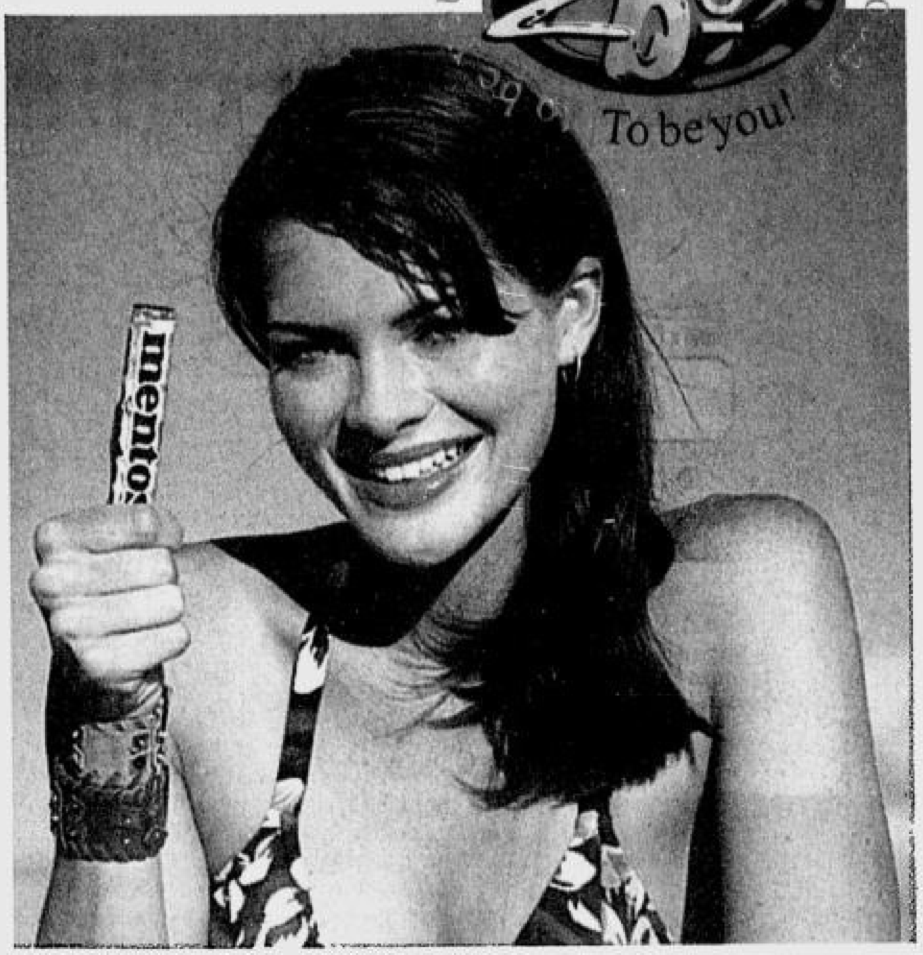

Get a makeover and win fab prizes

TURN your life around by getting a fresh makeover from MTV and Mentos The Freshmaker and win fabulous prizes like a new wardrobe, salon and body makeovers, and even be featured on MTV Asia and glossy magazines.

But first, show how you fare in your own little makeover. Send in two photos of yourself, one "before" and one "after" (photo must show contestant holding a Mentos roll) to Fresh Makeover on MTV Contest c/o MTV Philippines, P.O. Box 1696, Makati Central Post Office 1256, Makati City with your personal particulars—name, age, address and contact numbers and a brief write up on why you deserve to be on MTV.

The two grand prize winners, three major prize winners and 30 consolation prize winners will receive prizes from sponsors like Kickers, David's Salon and Slimmers World.

All entries should be in by May 31. "Fresh Makeover on MTV" contest is open to all residents of the Philippines between the ages of 15-25. Photos should be 4R size (4x6").

The announcement of winners will appear on "MTV Asia Hitlist" and MTV Asia.com's winner's roll, and in Meg and Forward magazines. Log on to mtvasia.com or call 634-7653 to 56 c/o Marketing Department.

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Low-tech and low-profile

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

Technology is expensive; it encourages indolence

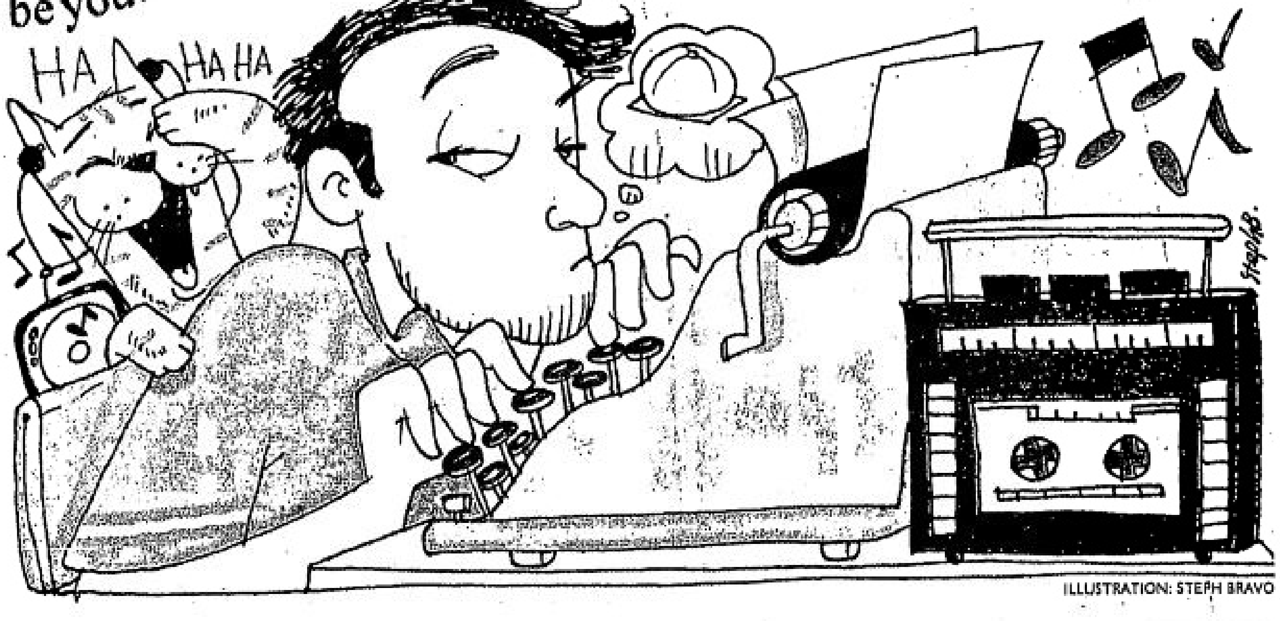


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

IT'S not that I hate high-tech gadgets. I'm not just a huge fan. Of course, I thank the tech gods in my nightly prayers. I am grateful that life continues to get better because of our ever-growing and improving technology. It has its drawbacks though and I'm not going to let that pass.

For starters, technology has created hordes of lazybones, willing slaves who have grown so accustomed to living the good and easy life. How many lucky maids use a vacuum cleaner instead of the usual *walis tambo*? Have you checked Inday's hands lately? No, she's not using your Jergens hand and body lotion. She has just discovered the washing machine, vowing never to wash by hand again. I, on the other hand, refuse to rely on high-tech things lest I become indolent. For example, whenever I am in the mall, I check other floors since I do not constrict myself to only one floor. I use the stairs, even when I carry lots of shopping bags (which happens once in a blue moon), and ignore the leg-friendly escalators. Elevator? It doesn't even exist in my vocabulary. Sorry, Leopold. You should all see my hoot-worthy legs. I didn't undergo lipo or use any other high-tech means to get them.

I am not insulting technology. It's just that I'm well aware of the negative things that have prompted me to live a low-tech, low-profile life.

On with the show

Technology ought to make our lives better. Chores are easier to accomplish and tasks are finished faster. All one has to do is press buttons. One press of the button and you experience audiovisual treats like Alicia Silverstone, "Koronang Itim" and RDL Skin Care Products. A press of the button and cool air comes out of your air conditioner.

Technology surely makes things easier for us, but sometimes, it's too complex for the regular Jose or Pedro. With too many buttons, you become confused which one to press. With too many instructions, you don't know which one to follow. Let's take the computer as an example. I know Microsoft Word and Paintbrush, plus I am capable of saving, deleting and renaming files. But aside from this, there's nothing else I can perform. I don't know how to scan. I leave it to Archie or Ben, the friendly computer men who assist me whenever I'm in their Internet café and I start to panic over my incapabilities. I am also powerless whenever the computer hangs or little gray quadrilaterals appear onscreen. All I can do is become hysterical and press all the keys at the same time, which is not helpful either. And have I mentioned that I don't have a computer at home? I do have a typewriter (not even an electronic one), which is the most poetic possession that I have.

The thing with technology is that it's constantly changing. Just when Gina's *lolo* got the hang of operating a VHS player, the VCD player was introduced and now he's burying his wrinkled nose in the manual again. Just when Lola Obang was about to gift Lumen with a Canon camera, she came across a digicam in Makati, which Lumen might love even more.

Expensive

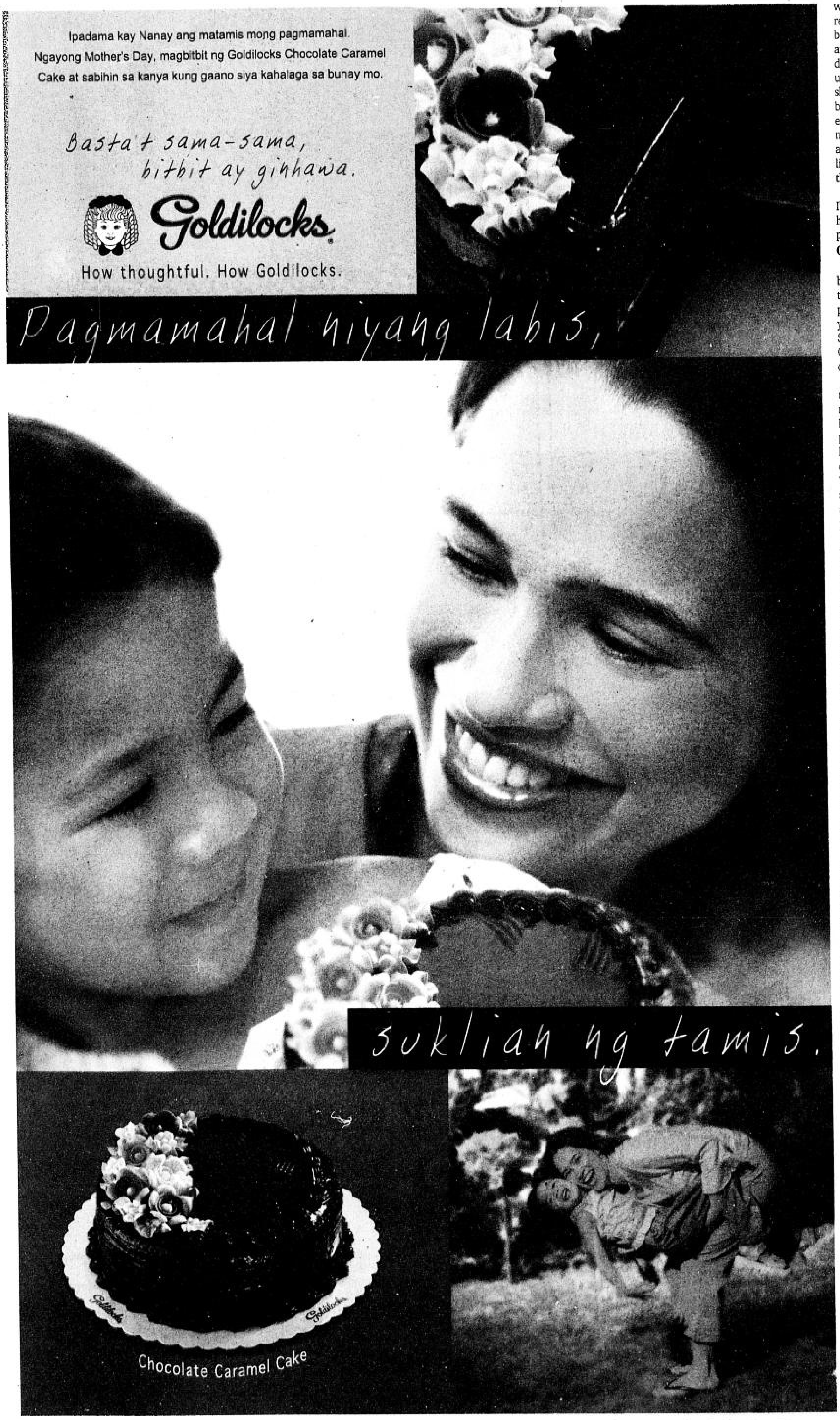
The thing that ticks me off the most about technology is how expensive it is. DVDs are great (much greater if they have Jude Law), but VCDs are enough for me. And CDs? Why buy a CD when you can have two or three cassette tapes instead? If you're after quantity and you're the type who doesn't torment tapes by pressing the rewind and fast-forward buttons every three seconds, cassettes are definitely okay. I know that CDs last longer but life is short and when I die, I know I won't be earthbound just because I wasn't able to listen to my tapes more than once.

Money-making moguls take advantage of technology and they instantly become millionaires, thanks to gullible tech freaks. Companies are now laughing their way to the bank after manipulating the text-crazy masses. Unnecessary accessories: every imaginable shade of housing, logos, ringtones, newer and newer models. Hurray to the cell phone craze.

When everyone was flaunting their 5110s, an uncle gifted me with a jurassic 2110, which was later stolen by a *balikbayan* who slept in my room. On my birthday, when everybody had 3210s in their bags and pockets, I received a 5110i. Last Christmas, I donated my cell phone to charity (actually to my little sister) after getting a 3310 from Mrs. Santa Claus. As part of my vow to live a low-tech life, I promise that my 3310 will be the last. Except if I win something else in a raffle.

But, thank God for high-tech. I wouldn't have met my deadline if not for the ever-reliable e-mail.

E-mail the author at katotino@yahoo.com


Ipadama kay Nanay ang matamis mong pagmamahal.
Ngayong Mother's Day, magbitbit ng Goldilocks Chocolate Caramel Cake at sabihin sa kanya kung gaano siya kahalaga sa buhay mo.

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How thoughtful. How Goldilocks.

Pagmamahal niyang labis,
suklian ng tamis.

Chocolate Caramel Cake

Gel pens for Gen Y

THEY text ferociously and say what's on their mind. They cut classes every now and then to go to the mall; sometimes they skip school to help fuel People Power. They study history and help make history. They are Generation Y.

Our youth deserve pens as imaginative and stylish, as high-tech and practical as they are. Star Paper Corp. recently introduced Leone Gel Pens for the sassy and sensible Gen Y. Leone pens provide smooth writing performance in various trendy colors and stylish designs.

GenYers will write effortlessly with Leone Gelball, Smooth Gel and Velvet Gel pens. The most affordable in the Leone Gel Pen range, these pens glide smoothly on paper, are of good quality, plus, they come in various fun designs and colors.

For those who prefer the professional finish of sign pens minus the high cost, there is the Leone Click Gel, a retractable gel ballpoint pen with see-through barrel and rubber grip with refills of black, blue and red ink. And then, there are the Leone Expos, needlepoint pens with smart features that make them ideal for college students and even non-GenYers.

For people who want their pens full of personality, the perfect pen would be Leone Sign Ball Gel, a retractable gel ballpoint pen with colored see-through barrel and a rubber grip that allows users to write with ease. High schoolers will appreciate the many attractive designs and eye-catching ink colors of Leone Gel Pens. Those who like high-tech stuff will opt for Leone Gel-Tech needlepoint pens and Leone Gel-Line ballpoints—both have an elegant cap with silver clip for that ultra modern look.

GenYers believe the pen is mightier than the sword, but they also know pens are accessories they can express themselves with. Leone Gel Pens are so affordable you can have different pens for different days of the week, different ink colors for different school subjects and different designs depending on your outfit or your mood. Whether you're a young student, a working professional, a graphic artist or a homemaker, there is a Leone Gel Pen that will suit your budget and your taste.

Leone Gel Pens are pens that write efficiently and pens you can have fun with.

Next-generation Leone Gel Pens and gel pen refills are available at National Bookstore, Diplomat, Goodwill Bookstore, Annalyn's, Rustan's, Shopwise, Office One, Merriam & Webster, Liana's Supermarket, Plaza Fair Department Store, Pandayan, Gaisano, Lopue, Ororama and other leading bookstores nationwide.

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From Kital Phils. Corp: Mr. Doron Glazer (General Manager) and Ms. Cherryl Morano (Medical Manager)

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No 1558, Series of 2002

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Shop at SM Department Store Baby Company and get a chance to win fabulous prizes for your child

BRINGING up baby is fun, exciting, and now, even more rewarding with the launch of the Star Baby Rewards promotion beginning today at SM Baby Company in all SM Department Store branches.

Rewards come two ways – great shopping at this one-stop baby store and a chance for your baby to be among SM's Star Baby Rewards winners. Spending money for your baby needs at the SM Baby Company is like investing in a bank, complete with baby card. The more you buy, the more points you earn.

All cute and adorable babies up to 24 months can join the promotion. An initial P500 purchase of Prokids and selected Pigeon products at the SM Baby Company qualifies a baby to join the contest.

Registration forms may be secured upon presentation of proof of purchase at the redemption area. Simply complete the form and submit with a two recent 4R colored close-up and full shot photos of the baby, and a photocopy of baby's certificate.

Three initial baby cards will be released, and all succeeding P500 minimum single purchase will earn 5 points with an additional 1 point for succeeding P100 purchase in the same tape receipt. All purchases will be credited to one baby.

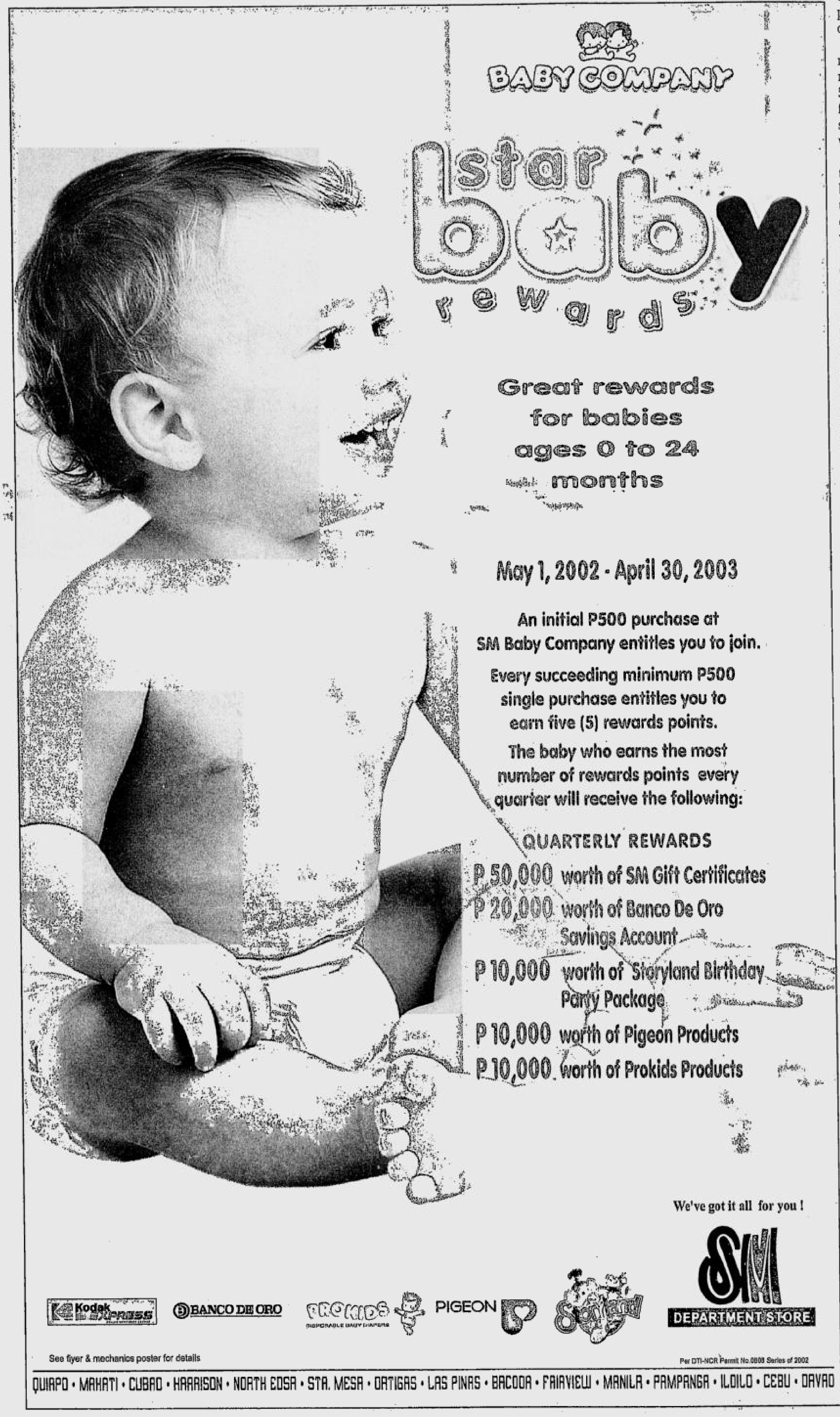
Earned points will be determined through a special computer and the baby card, the baby who garners the most number of points every quarter wins the Star Baby Rewards.

There will be one winner every quarter. Quarterly prizes at stake include P50,000 worth of SM Gift Certificates, a P20,000 Banco De Oro Savings Account, a Storyland Party Package worth P10,000, P10,000 worth of Prokids products and P10,000 worth of Pigeon products.

Awarding of quarterly prizes will be August 14, 2002, Nov. 13, 2002, Feb. 12, 2003 and May 14, 2003 at Storyland.

Shop at Baby Company and get a chance to let your child win the SM Star Baby Rewards promotion.

The SM Star Baby Rewards contest is ongoing at all SM Baby Company departments at all SM stores. This promotion is sponsored by Prokids and Pigeon products, with the support of Kodak Express, Banco De Oro and Storyland.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star baby rewards

Great rewards for babies ages 0 to 24 months

May 1, 2002 - April 30, 2003

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Every succeeding minimum P500 single purchase entitles you to earn five (5) rewards points.

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QUARTERLY REWARDS

P 50,000 worth of SM Gift Certificates
P 20,000 worth of Banco De Oro Savings Account
P 10,000 worth of Storyland Birthday Party Package
P 10,000 worth of Pigeon Products
P 10,000 worth of Prokids Products

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See flyer & mechanics poster for details

Per DTI-NCR Permit No.0808 Series of 2002

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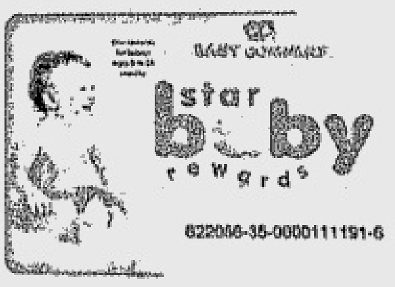

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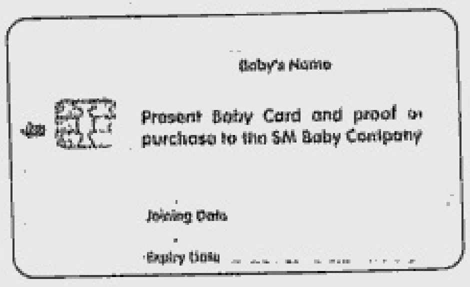

Baby's Name
Present Baby Card and proof of purchase to the SM Baby Company
Joining Date
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EARN AS YOU BUY

With SM Star Baby Rewards, your purchases earn you points. The more you buy, the more points you earn. It comes with a baby card that features your baby's name on it and your joining date at the back

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By Neil Galang
2bU! Correspondent

WHAT electronic innovations can we consider as treasures? Well, here's a short list of objects that can either challenge techies or give them endless pleasure.

Sony PlayStation 2

What? You haven't got one yet? Get a life and head to your nearest console dealer, buddy. It's been three years and the Sony PS2 tower continues to rise above the rest in the so-called next-generation console wars. By now we're familiar with the PS2 arsenal: built-in DVD player, DTS Sound, the ultra-fast graphics chip, etc. But what grabs us hardcore gamers the most is the growing number of PS2 titles. Rarely does a console boast of a game library that has a perfect balance between quantity and quality.

Pros: Great games, fair overall console price.

Cons: Console care is a must, may break down when overused.

And in case you want to know what's in my console, here are my top three PS2 games:

- Grand Theft Auto 3—This game will immerse you in a world not so far from reality: drive-by shootings, kidnappings, robberies, and hardcore car chases. Only this time you're the bad guy. A perfect crime simulator recommended for gamers mature enough to handle it.
- State of Emergency—Grand Theft Auto's little brother (sort of). Only this time you have a choice to play one of two game modes, Chaos and Revolution. One is "mission-based" just like GTA 3, and the other one is a time-based game, challenging you to wreak havoc and destroy the corporation's army as fast as you can. You will encounter minor control problems in the beginning, but once you get the hang of aiming and moving around, you'll be on the country's Most Wanted List in no time. Definitely not for kids.
- Tekken 4—Hey, video game brawlers, are you up for round 4? Enjoy the bone-crunching and skin-bruising goodness of the arcade version right at home. The PS2 version boasts added features like Tekken Force, which transforms the "versus" style game play

A FEW/ p.D2

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May is pregnant with promise at Shopwise as we deliver discounts of up to 50% on selected infants, toddlers and maternity items!

It all begins on May 1 until May 31!

Your visit to Shopwise becomes more fruitful as we offer free pre-natal seminars courtesy of Mead Johnson every Sunday this May! Register at the designated registration booths and attend the *10 A.M. session in Libis or 3 P.M. session in Alabang.* You'll get a free prenatal bag bursting with goodies like a Smart Symphonies CD, Tempra drops, prenatal and childcare handbooks.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1546, Series of 2002

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Handhelds no longer just playthings for a few

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

By Anne Rose A. Elicaño
2bU! Correspondent

YUPPIE tool. Techie gadget. These were the reactions to the introduction of handheld devices in the county a few years ago.

The texting fever was still raging and people were too busy fiddling with their cell phones to take notice of the Palm 1000 or the Handspring Visor. Now these babies are starting to get noticed. And why not? Handheld devices, especially the latest models, are eye-candy and technologically wicked at the same time. The Sony Clie, for instance, is breathtakingly sleek yet almost as powerful as a laptop. It helps that the prices of some handhelds have gone down considerably making them more affordable than before. But the handheld's most important quality is its ability to make life easier for everyone, even non-techies.

When I was given a Handspring Visor, I stopped lugging around my 3-inch thick organizer, scribbling poetry on table napkins (hey, inspiration can strike anytime) and playing tic-tac-toe with my seatmate when teachers were late. When I got a portable keypad to go with my handheld, I stopped bringing notebooks to school—typing lectures was faster and printing them out made them neater than my old handwritten notes. By the way, one need not stick to the standard programs on the handheld. You can download interesting programs from the Internet for free (check out freewarepalm.com) or ask other handheld users to beam them to you. Here are some programs that everyone, both techies or non-techies can enjoy.

> Their most important quality is their ability to make life easier for everyone, even non-techies

Games

Text Twist!—You're given letters that you have to unscramble to form as many words as you can in one minute. Clicking the twist button will cause the letters to regroup making some of the answers obvious. It's a highly addictive game that can help improve your vocabulary.

Fire Escape—Speed is essential as you guide two firemen with a stretcher to catch babies falling off a building. However, it can get boring after a while.

Parking Lot—If you love puzzles, this game is for you. Cars and trucks are jumbled up in a maze-like parking lot. You have to rearrange them to allow at least one vehicle to get out. There are three levels of difficulty, the third being extremely hard to untangle.

Giraffe—Letters and numbers fall and you have to write their equivalent before they reach the bottom of the screen. If you're a new handheld user, this game will help you learn how to write using the handheld alphabet. If you're an old-timer, it will help you increase your handheld writing speed. Tip: Write those letters/numbers big so that your handheld doesn't confuse them for something else.

Race Fever—The Grand Turismo of handheld. A car race is simulated and you can speed away to victory just by pressing your stylus down. The graphics of this game are amazing.

Non-games

Sorting Hat—"Harry Potter" fans, rejoice. By entering information, like your gender and the first initial of your name, Sorting Hat determines to which Hogwarts family you belong. The screen even blinks magically when the sorting hat decides. My only complaint is I was placed under Slytheryn...

Beam Mobile—This allows you to write in your handheld and then beam the message to your infrared-enabled GSM cell phone. You can send and receive messages in class without getting reprimanded by the teacher for texting. Practical, indeed.

Shopping Partner—Did you ever forget to buy something because you left your shopping list at home? This program can replace that list, recording the items you want to buy and comparing prices of different shops for the same products. You can even enter your parking space number and add notes while shopping.

Student—It keeps your school schedule from Monday to Friday. The glitch: It leaves out students who go to class on Saturday. But its other features are pretty cool—a countdown timer for each class, a schoolbag view showing the books you have to bring each day, and a function highlighting the current day and lesson.

Avantgo—An offline browser that allows you to download the content of your favorite websites into your handheld. You can read webpages anywhere and you don't waste time browsing online. You can download anything—from the latest "Episode II" trivia to CNN news into your handheld.

E-mail the author at anario@lycos.com

A few of my favorite things

From page D1

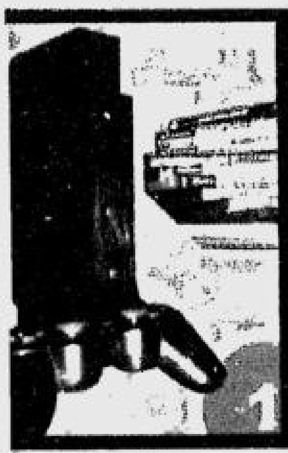
to a kick and punch adventure game (just like Double Dragon on crack!). Memorize your combos; it's time for those late-night booze and brawl tournaments!

Custom-made specimen lamp

When I'm not looking directly at monitors and video screens, my eyes are locked on a piece of clever (and very beautiful) scrap metal art by Vernon Perez. He doesn't really give "titles" to any of his works, so I don't exactly know what to call it, but I can definitely try to describe it: It's a cylindrical lamp with welded metal parts, and inside it lies a strange alien-like specimen. With all the tubes and valves wrapped around the base it's like a gadget straight out of Terry Gilliam's "Brazil." But the addicting concoction of beauty and oddity doesn't stop there. Turn the backlight-enabled lamp at night and see that the white fossil-like specimen glows! To own a piece of unique, utilitarian scrap metal art and sculptures, give Mr. Perez a call at (0917) 240-7503.

Pros: A perfect conversation piece and visual playground.

Cons: Not available at your local shopping mall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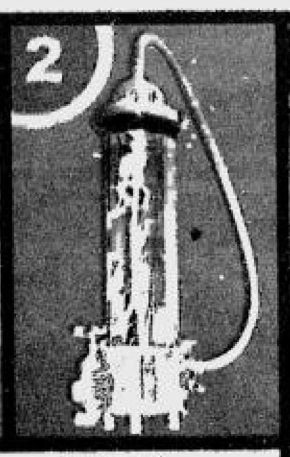
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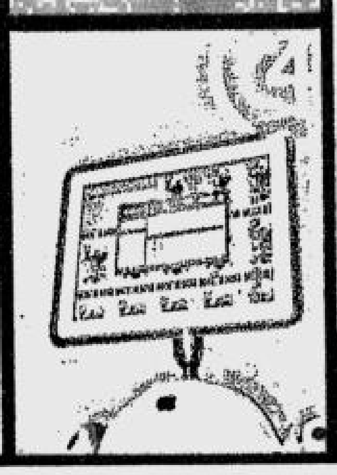
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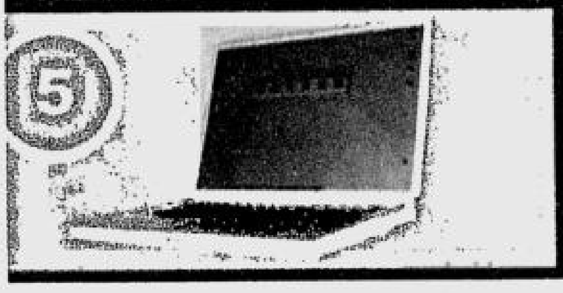
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Tech Fever
By Neil D. Galang

PHOTO LAYOUT BY THE PLASMAPIMPS

Microsoft X-Box

We have to thank Bill for producing the most powerful video game console (in terms of MHz), in the market. I have only played two games (Dead or Alive 3 and Halo) from my favorite dealer and I must say that I'm already impressed with what the hardware can do. Both games display fast polygon rendering and smooth textures, but the overall impact of the gaming experience is nothing out of the ordinary. Yes, I must say that Halo is simply the best first-person shooter around (forget CounterStrike and Quake), but one winning title isn't enough to make me buy a console, and as of presstime the price for a full unit and bundled with a game is still quite steep (SRP is around P24,000-30,000). With the PS2's price drop and killer library releases, smart, practical gamers are left with no other choice but to think "out of the box."

Pros: Nice graphics, a couple of nice games, glowing green box might look good in your living room.

Cons: Weak game library (as of now), high price, controller's buttons are jammed too tightly in one spot.

Flat-panel G4 iMac

I was amazed and intrigued when I first saw the new iMac model on the Apple website a few months back. The innovative design of the flat-panel swivel monitor and spherical base has left me salivating for a hands-on experience.

Last night, I visited fellow Mac addicts Brando Umali and Shannen Torres for a full review of their week-old baby: the G4 800 iMac. Man, it was techno lust at first sight! The monitor does not only radiate a crisp and clear display but also glides smoothly to your desired angle, which makes it perfect for professional designers and diehard Net surfers who are glued to their monitors for hours on end (no more neck and eye strain).

With the 800 MHz velocity engine and 60 gigabytes of hard drive space, this beautiful baby is also packed with much brawn. I rendered heavy Photoshop images with processor and RAM-straining filters and the iMac performed the tasks with such ease. The good thing is even though the guys at Apple intended their iMac models for basic home computing, this model combines such ease-of-use and user-friendly qualities with the power and stability that Macs are generally known for. If you're thinking of getting an all-in-one, browsing, graphics, music authoring and home video editing machine, forget that beige, boxy PC. With the new iMac out, it's no longer hip to be square.

Pros: Looks great, performs even better, and the price is good considering the bundled Super Drive (CD and DVD writer).

Cons: The monitor display could have been a tad bigger.

PowerBook Titanium 667

My PowerBook has been oh-so good to me that I simply cannot say anything bad about it. As a designer, my big jump to the freelance world demanded a portable workstation that can shoulder the heavy print and motion graphics applications. Then came the Titanium Powerbook 667, another masterpiece of aesthetic magnificence and computing muscle by Apple.

At just 1" thick, 13.4" wide, weighing a mere 5.3 pounds and shielded with 99.5-percent pure grade titanium, I need not look any further. Under the hood, the top 667 model is equipped with 512 MB of RAM and a 30 GB hard drive. It also readily connects to any firewire or USB device for on-the-fly video editing. Another plus factor is the video-out capability of the PowerBook. You can actually use another computer monitor or TV screen for extra desktop space and client presentations.

The Titanium also sports a 15.2" (measured diagonally) wide screen display, which supports up to 1152x768-pixel resolution in millions of colors, which makes it a good, portable graphics (and gaming) machine for me. Of course, there are cheaper notebooks, but why tighten your belt when you can get the perfect ally which not only lets you do anything, anytime, and anywhere, but also makes you look good while you're at it? For the best deals on Macs, contact Kailash or Kajal of LMK Marketing at (0917) 834-2554.

Pros: Very powerful, fast and compact, high on *pogi* points.

Cons: Nothing, really. I'm still very much in love!

With reports from Kayen Bernardo

E-mail the author at plasmapimps@yahoo.com

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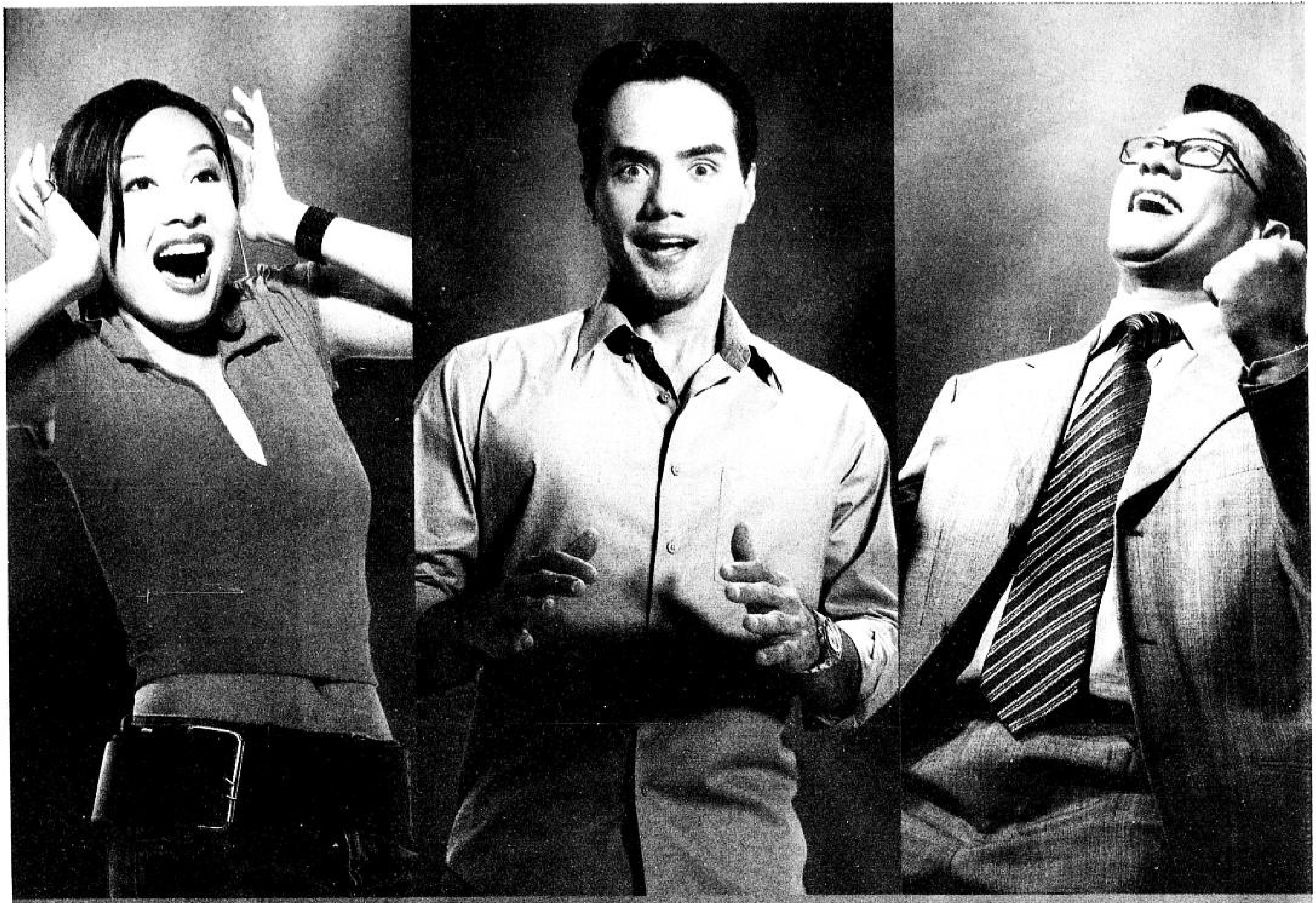

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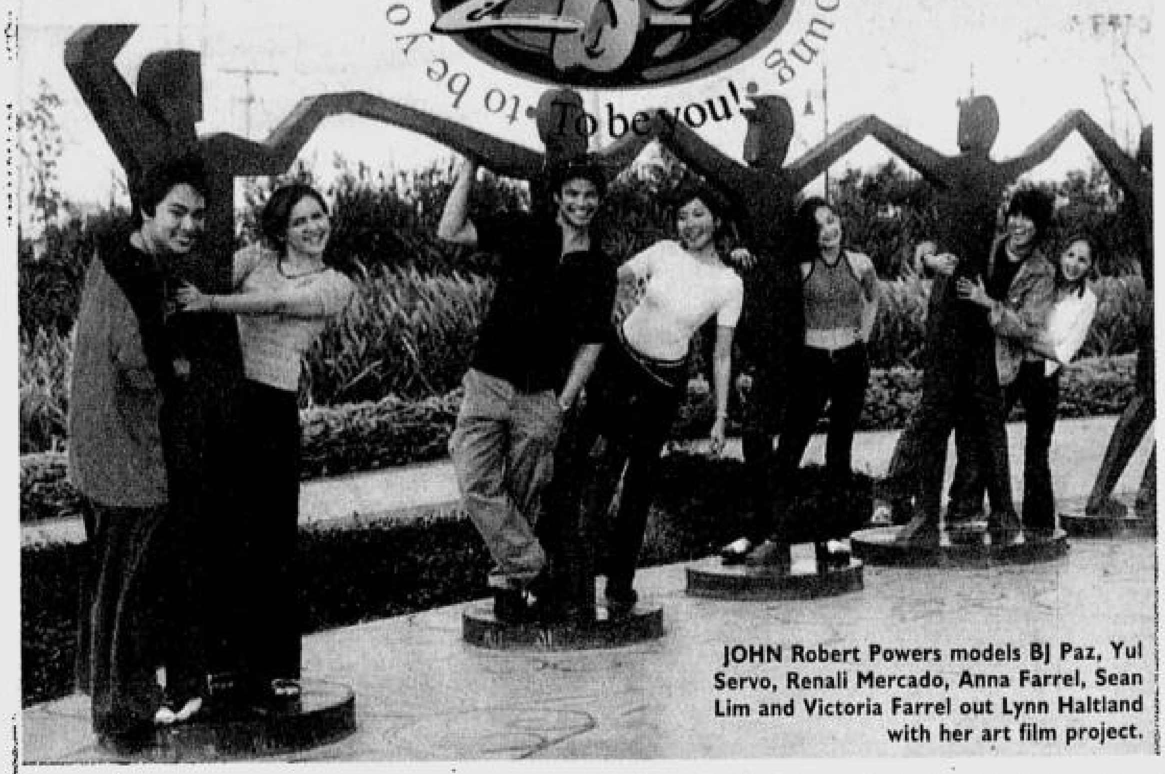
Keeping in touch with family and friends



JOHN Robert Powers models BJ Paz, Yul Servo, Renali Mercado, Anna Farrel, Sean Lim and Victoria Farrel out Lynn Haltland with her art film project.

JUST like any teenager, 19-year-old student and commercial model Lynn Haltland is a self-confessed member of GenTxt. A junior multimedia arts major at the College of Saint Benilde, Lynn owns two cell phones (a Touch Mobile and a Globe unit). It's an "indispensable part" of modern living for all teeners, Lynn asserts. "It's a very important communication tool," she says, "especially when I need to get in touch with people. My parents call me a lot to check on me. Since I'm the only girl, they're kinda protective."

Which is understandable because Lynn is quite a stunner, having starred in a number of advertisements for products like a beauty soap and hotdogs since she was 10. "My cell phones also help me with my work to confirm VTRs, go-sees, ad shoots and pictorials."

Because she leads a frenzied and fast-paced life, Lynn often relies on her cell phone to find out the latest news and current events. That's precisely why the two new offerings of Touch Mobile Prepaid GSM (Voice Info and Voice Messaging) have proved very useful for Lynn and other young people like her.

"All I need is to press 8140 on my handset to know the latest scoop on politics, weather, business, traffic and entertainment. My personal favorites are Boy Abunda's show biz segments: celebrity watch, celebrity spotlight and celebrity tips. These features are very informative."

Lynn raves about the multitude of features provided by her Touch Mobile phone. "It has a lot to offer," she says. "When my friends and I are out on a *gimik*, we can check the traffic situation and get updated on the coolest events in the city."

It's not all for fun, though. There's also a serious side to cell phone communication. Lynn says her cell phone also helps her with her schoolwork. "When I need to ask questions about our lesson, my classmates are just a call or text away." Of course, like any responsible texter, Lynn turns off her phone inside the classroom and during exams.

Most recently, the cell phone helped Lynn and her groupmates Sean Lim and BJ Paz mount their thesis project: an art film featuring special effects, the latest in digital video technology. "We shot in the same old house in Sta. Mesa where the horror flick, 'Bahay ni Lola,' was shot," Sean says.

Sean, who also attends classes at John Robert Powers, helped Lynn round up his fellow modeling and personality development students—hunky Yul Servo, mestiza sisters Victoria and Anna Farrel, and *morena* tourism graduate Renali Mercado—for different video shoots and fashion pictorials.

"All I need to do is to text or call them using my Touch Mobile phone," Sean says. And whenever BJ needs to find groupmates Sean and Lynn in the campus, he also makes use of another Touch Mobile feature, Voice Messaging. "It's very easy to use," BJ says.

"Voice Messaging is another fun feature," Lynn adds. "When it's time to go home and I'm looking for my friends Sean and BJ or my older brother Anton, all I need to do is press 8160 to send a prerecorded message (a sound icon) to tell them where I'm at, that I'm waiting at the school library or parking lot."

Because she's Eurasian, Lynn acknowledges she has a true-blue Pinay's *malambing* (caring) ways as well as a typical Norwegian's shy, reserved nature. Again, the Voice Messaging feature helps Lynn bridge the gap between reticence and being affectionate. "When I need to send personal messages to friends, I prefer to use Voice Messaging to tell them that I care, or to greet them happy birthday," she says. With texting, she emphasizes, messages could get delayed, but with Voice Messaging, prerecorded greetings are received in real time.

"It's perfect for my mom," Lynn says. "She doesn't really know how to text so I just send her a voice message instead to assure her I'm safe, that I'm on my way home from school or work, or to simply tell her how much I love her. It's very convenient and reassuring for my mom."

Lynn says she keeps two cell phone units because she always runs out of credits. "My Touch Mobile is my main unit; the other Globe is my spare, for emergencies, when I run out of units on my Touch Mobile Prepaid GSM."

As such, she counsels other GenTexters and young people like her to use their phones responsibly. "I've learned to be more choosy," Lynn says. "I only text important messages. I try to avoid chain texts, quotes and other senseless graphics. If I really want to send friends a special message, like for birthdays and other special days (like Valentine's), I use voice messaging instead because it's more personal. Not only can they listen to my voice, they can also find out how I'm feeling because they can actually hear whether I'm happy or sad."

Indeed, Touch Mobile gives an extra personal touch for today's texting teenager.

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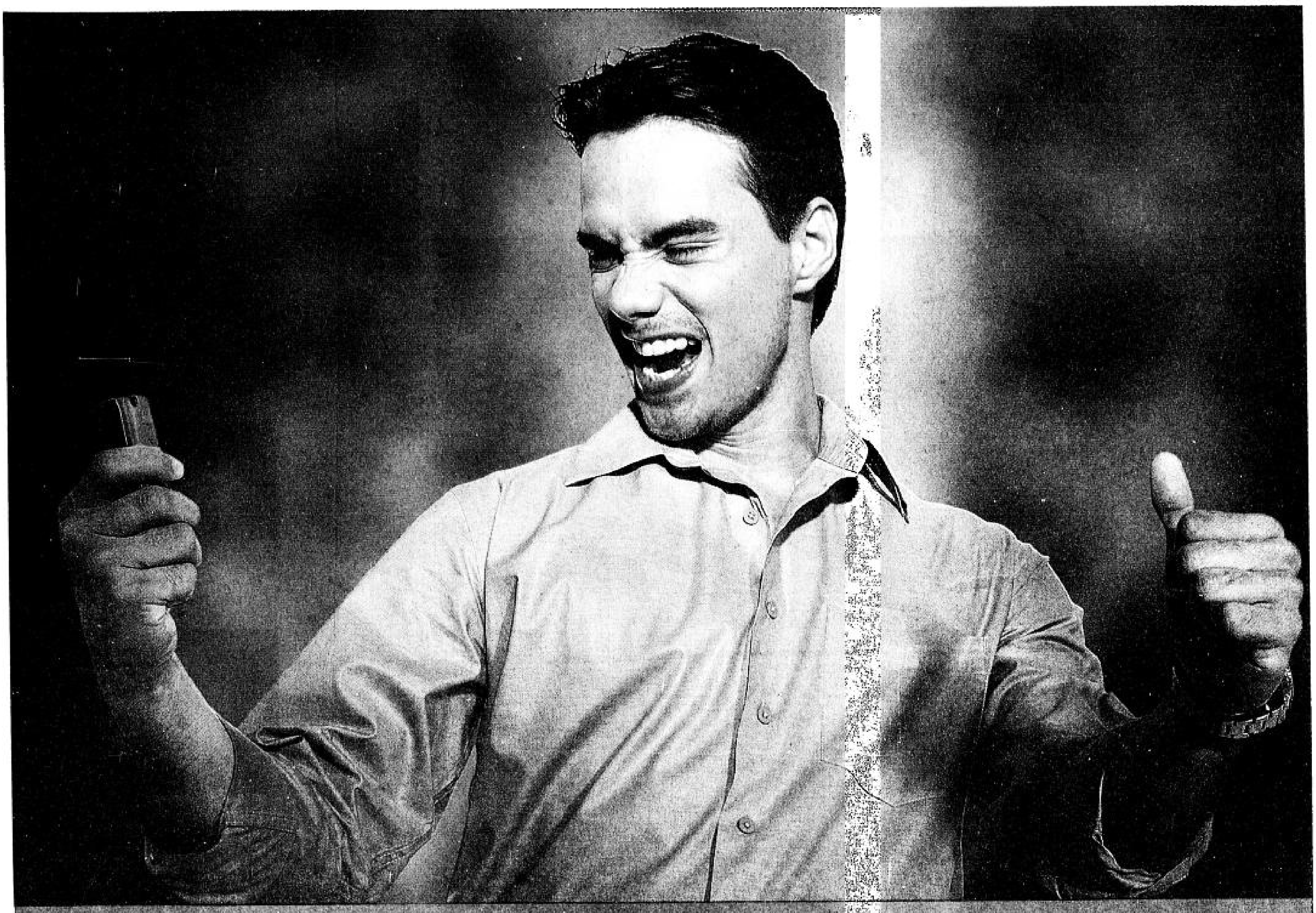

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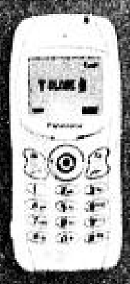
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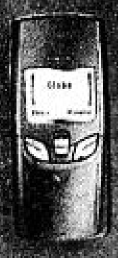
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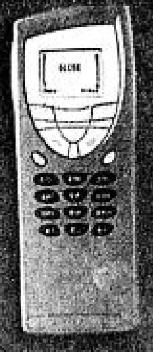
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Nokia 3310	4,000	3,000	2,000	1,000	FREE	3,000	1,000	FREE	FREE	FREE	5,490	5,190	4,840	4,390	4,000	3,000	2,000	1,000	FREE	3,000	1,000	500	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Motorola T190	4,500	3,500	2,500	1,500	FREE	3,500	1,500	FREE	FREE	FREE	5,790	5,490	5,140	4,690	4,500	3,500	2,500	1,500	FREE	3,500	1,500	1,000	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Panasonic GD75	6,500	5,500	4,500	3,500	1,500	5,500	3,500	500	FREE	FREE	7,690	7,390	7,040	6,590	6,500	5,500	4,500	3,500	1,500	5,500	3,500	3,000	2,000	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Nokia 3350	6,500	5,500	4,500	3,500	1,500	5,500	3,500	500	FREE	FREE	8,090	7,790	7,440	6,990	6,500	5,500	4,500	3,500	1,500	5,500	3,500	3,000	2,000	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Nokia 5210	9,500	8,500	7,500	6,600	4,500	8,500	6,500	3,500	FREE	FREE	—	—	—	—	9,500	8,500	7,500	6,500	4,500	8,500	6,500	6,000	5,000	3,000	2,000	1,000	FREE	FREE	FREE
Siemens ME45	13,000	12,000	11,000	10,000	8,000	12,000	10,000	7,000	3,500	FREE	—	—	—	—	13,000	12,000	11,000	10,000	8,000	12,000	10,000	9,500	8,500	6,500	5,500	4,500	2,500	1,000	FREE
Siemens SL45	16,000	15,000	14,000	13,000	11,000	15,000	13,000	10,000	6,500	2,500	—	—	—	—	16,000	15,000	14,000	13,000	11,000	15,000	13,000	12,500	11,500	9,500	8,500	7,500	5,500	4,000	2,000
Nokia 6510	18,000	17,000	16,000	15,000	13,000	17,000	15,000	12,000	8,500	4,500	—	—	—	—	18,000	17,000	16,000	15,000	13,000	17,000	15,000	14,500	13,500	11,500	10,500	9,500	7,500	6,000	4,000
Motorola V66	18,500	17,500	16,500	15,500	13,500	17,500	16,500	12,500	9,000	5,000	—	—	—	—	18,500	17,500	16,500	15,500	13,500	17,500	15,500	15,000	14,000	12,000	11,000	10,000	8,000	6,500	4,500
Nokia 8855	23,000	22,000	21,000	20,000	18,000	22,000	20,000	17,000	13,500	9,500	—	—	—	—	23,000	22,000	21,000	20,000	18,000	22,000	20,000	19,500	18,500	16,500	15,500	14,500	12,500	11,000	9,000
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Nokia 9210	35,000	34,000	33,000	32,000	30,000	34,000	32,000	29,000	25,500	21,500	—	—	—	—	35,000	34,000	33,000	32,000	30,000	34,000	32,000	31,500	30,500	28,500	27,500	26,500	24,500	23,000	21,000

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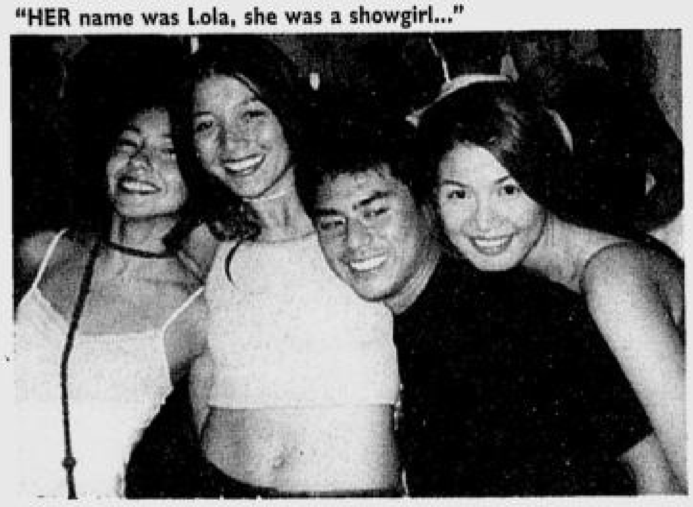
"HER name was Lola, she was a showgirl..."



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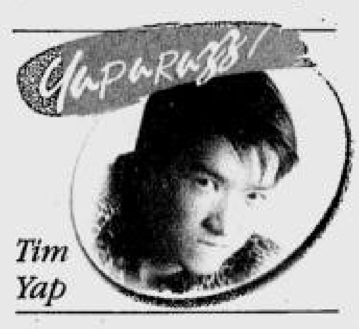


Tim Yap

IN THIS technologically challenged world where the question on everybody's minds is "What's next?" every five seconds, it is worth our every while to sit back, throw all caution to the wind, and "party!" to our hearts content. Then sit back again, relax, and ask once more, "What's next?" Such is the mantra of today's youthful generation, in a mad scramble for the next big thing—that elusive, fleeting, fun fashion moment.

Balance is always key. Think hard, work hard, pray hard, play hard. That seems to be the principle these past weeks with partyphiles' calendars all filled up with parties, launches and gigs: Cal Carrie's Fashion Week at Glorietta, the after parties that followed, weekends at Tagaytay or Tali, packed Pravda on Wednesday R&B nights (it's vacation time, remember?), Chill House Thursdays, and again at Pravda (the best night in town right now if you ask me). Also Shiraz is back, and Mati is still hot, hot, hot.

During the Ayala Center fashion week, Globe Telecoms' "De-lee-rium" party made fashionistas and party-crazy urbanites go wild over the "divas of drag." Reminds me of my party nights at the former Zu disco at Shang Makati. Nostalgia is indeed hitting a high note these days, with "Stargazing @ Louie Y's" pioneering the trend of the '80s parties (the Faces reunion and other '80s' nights around town).

SAM LIKE IT HOT. Miguel Rosales and Sam Lopez

FROM ONE QUEEN TO THE NEXT. Joanne Primero and Maxi Malone

G IS IT! Buda Concio and Robby Carmona at Glorietta

MTV MUSH. Anna Shier, Trinchy Floro and Mumph Ruiz

RIA Balquiedra with DJ Dizire Dubfire, who looks like Goldie Hawn's mother

BEAUTIES AND THE BEST. Ash Mirpuri, Domilyn Mitchell and Clara Balaguer

WHERE'S THE G? Aisa Tiongson and Sigrid Villamil

WHERELSE BUT AT RUSTAN'S? Joel Tantoco and Marcel Crespo

This delirious "G" party (with the Big Fish crew) though, went the extra mile by hiring drag **DJ Dizire Dubfire**, a veteran of Ministry and Miss Moneypenny's gigs, to be behind the booth in front of the ramp. They even went to the extent of putting up 360-degree screens around the Glorietta Activity Center, with 20 projectors around the party place (a feat in events this side of town) and 50 Cal Carrie's models strutting in Lee Jeans hip-hugging couture!

Ab fab **Twiggy**, **Maxi Malone** and **Krissey**—the "divas of drag" sashayed to supermodel lengths across the runway, later inspiring fashionphiles **Celine Lopez**, **Joel Tantoco** and other guests to do the same. Not to be outdone, K8 scenesters—Supermodel Diva **Angelo Villanueva** (all of the divas of drag combined could not beat our very own) and **Ed Aniel**—did the same thing, giving Naomi, Kate, Cindy and Claudia a run for their model moolah.

G boys (the go-go boys) **JR Isaac** and friends were spinning around, as fashion industry insiders and clubbers raised their hands (and hips) for this "G" (for Globe, not gay) party. Outside, Globe had their own chill lounge for their party hardy subscribers who needed to rest from all that runway and ledge action, which hit it right on the G spot! Oooh.

Not enough circuses

How apt, this new company by avant-garde fashion movers **Ariel Lozada**, **Michael Salientes** and **Joyce Oreña**, who is producing tonight's eagerly anticipated men's collection fashion and art gala by **Paolo Raymundo**. This group has the right fashion-forward vision and pro-young artistic design talent genes to bring the industry to greater heights. As I've said earlier, with a scene like ours, balance is always key.

This Metro-sponsored series, called "FAD," short for "fashion, art and design," provides a platform where ideas can flourish, from video installation to fashion, accessories and home interiors. "Join 'FAD' as we move art and design into a future where ideas are limitless," said the Not Enough Circuses scene shakers.

Tomorrow at 7 p.m., it will be the turn of other designers: the young and very talented **Dennis Lustico**, sultry southern figure **Arcy Gayatin**, the chi-chi and edgy **Mimi Sanson**, and my favorite **Patrice Ramos-Diaz**, with her elite fashion plate following, with cousins **Tessa Prieto-Valdes** and **Leica Carpo** being her most loyal advocates. Speaking of Leica, her Ralph Lauren with Penelope Cruz as image model event is also on May 2, 6:30 p.m. cocktails at the Enterprise Center lobby. "Come as your fave glamour icon," winks La Carpo.

GO GO G! JR Isaac dances his way.

And this Friday, it's **Jesus Lloren**, a.k.a. the soft-spoken, award-winning Jojie Lloren, whom I had the opportunity of living with in Paris when he was on a scholarship. To say that the scene is excited for this gala would be an understatement. So let us all see each other in the three-day circus that will be held at the NBC Tent this May 1, 2 and 3. Let the shows begin!

Sunup, sundown

This Tuesday, its the turn of hip, hip sportswear brand Fila with **Butch** and **Cris Albert**'s latest coup—**Michael Schumacher** as the Fila Ferrari spokesperson! Guess who else? **Donita Rose** is their femme fatale endorser and designer **Noni Diza**, their edgy sports couture resident. It's really the year of the endorsers and image models. The launch party happens at Venezia at 7 p.m.

On the summer front (yes, it still is hot right now), after invading all spots from north to south, San Miguel Beer is still rarin' to go with its "Sarap to Sundown" for more chilling summer treats! Last Saturday SMB was at Rockwell and at the Fort with NU 107. It joins Pangasinan's "Pista'y Dayat" today, and the Sarabia Manor in Iloilo on May 3.

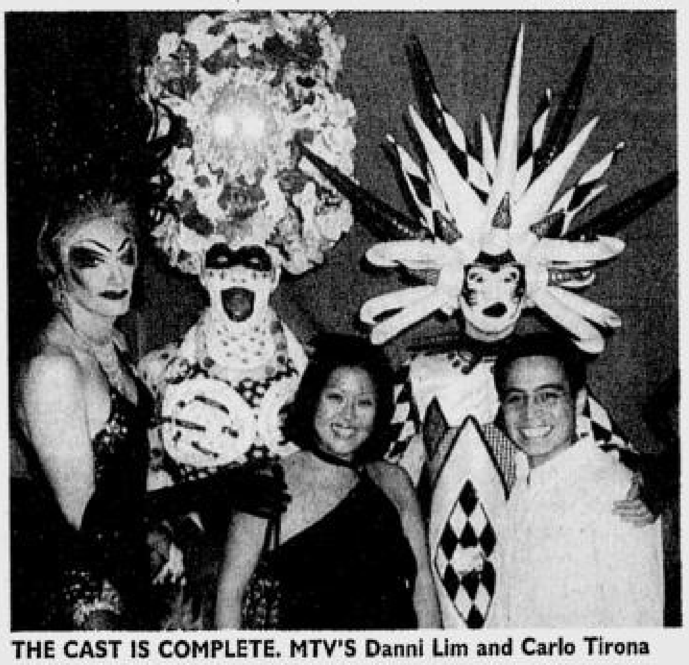
Weekend fun gets even more exciting as the "Sarap to Sundown" banner flies high in Tropical Summer in Cebu, White Rock in Olongapo, Insular Hotel in Davao and the Havana Waterfest in Malate—all happening on May 4. For more info, log on to smbsaraptosundown.pinoycentral.com for more updates.

So, whether you are in the city or out of it, there's no reason not to enjoy this hot, hot season. Chill out, partyphiles.

FASHION GURU. Joey Espino, here with Geri Aldana

TWO FACES OF FASHION. Joji Dingcong and Jon Herrera

PHOTOS BY TIM YAP



THE CAST IS COMPLETE. MTV'S Danni Lim and Carlo Tirona with the divas of drag in Disneyland

LICK MY LOGO! Says Melvin Ochoa, in "De-lee-rium" mode

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2. Fill up raffle coupon with your name, address, tel. no., your mother's name and affix signature, and drop in drop boxes located at Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts.,1231 Makati City.
3. Entries must be received by 5:00 pm of May 11, 2002 to qualify for the raffle draw during which 45 mothers/winners will receive any one (1) of the following:
   - Fifteen (15) David's Salon gift certificates (consisting of shampoo, hair cut, blow-dry and hot oil services)
   - Fifteen (15) Body and Soul Spa Treatments worth P2500
   - Fifteen (15) Avon gift certificates worth P2000
4. The raffle draw will be held on May 17, 2002 at 3:00 pm at the PDI office in the presence of an official DTI representative.
5. An individual may send more than one entry but can only win once in the raffle draw. If drawn more than once, the winner gets the prize with the higher value.
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8. Winners can claim their prizes at the PDI office upon presentation of the notification letter and a valid ID.
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2BU! SURVEY

What hot-shot invention are you still waiting for?

Compiled by Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

ARE you still left wanting despite the endless outpour of gadgets and gizmos? What gadget or invention would make your life complete?

I hope that publishing companies will start printing stuff using glow-in-the-dark ink. Imagine the Bible, a Stephen King novel and a Playboy mag that glow in the dark.—**Omar Paul Papica, 21**

TV sets and stereos that don't require remote controls since they can follow voice commands.—**Nini Berenguela, 25**

A lapel-like, wireless mic in the form of a chip that one can just stick on his lower lip.—**Dexter Rada, 23**

I hope someone could come up with a detector in every mall entrance that would alarm every time a would-be terrorist or shoplifter passes by.—**Anika, 13, Bloomfield Academy**

The vain ones would definitely treasure an eraser that could remove any spot, scar, pimple or wrinkle.—**Sugar Tadeo, 20**

A remote control that could temporarily silence anyone.—**Starlet Joyce, 15**

Every woman would love a suction that could instantly take away a month's worth of menstruation.—**Myra Montemayor, 27**

Pretty impossible, but I want a wand that could duplicate everything.—**Lindley, 20, STI**

A machine that could instantly find anything or anyone missing.—**Eleanor, 15, Bloomfield Academy**

Something that could convert our fantasies and daydreams into VHS tapes or VCDs.—**Eilleen Nidua, 20**

A hands-free camera in the form of eyeglasses that could take pictures every time one blinks.—**Eva Isa Salvador, 22**

An electric fan that follows you wherever you go.—**Marjorie Ocay, 23**

A wonder bra that could make big boobs look smaller.—**Sheena Sanchez, 18**

A nose plug that could make one breathe underwater.—**Carmencita Castor, 26**

Some form of medication that could dry a fresh wound in 10 seconds.—**Romeo Gomez, 21**

A lotion that would help someone have fair skin even if he swims or stays under the sun for several hours.—**Shane Pasco, 22**

Clothes that could make you feel cold during hot days.—**Malu Lansang, 23**

It's about time that someone invents a time machine or at least something that could instantly transport someone from one place to another.—**Jose Carmelo Acelajado, 24**

A chip that could make you remember everything.—**Claire Mae Jaula, 19**

JASMIN

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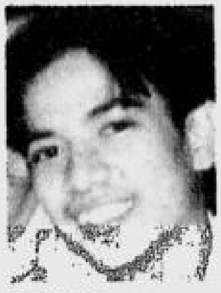
SUGAR


SHANE Pasco

Wings.—**Raquiza Sausa, 20**

A remote control that could rewind, fast-forward or pause anything.—**Valen Sta. Teresa, 18**

A machine that could beam up faces or images to the sky.—**Ayetz Ledesma, 19**

If there are hand dryers that get the job done in less than a minute, I hope there could also be whole body dryers so we won't need towels anymore.—**Sherry Yu, 20**

Underwear that could convert farts into something more pleasant.—**Jasmin Mate, 19**

Food in candy form. Same taste, same nutritional value.—**Pinky Banaag, 25**

Monitors on people's foreheads that would reflect their innermost thoughts and desires. *Masaya 'yon.*—**Maricel Hiwatig, 20**

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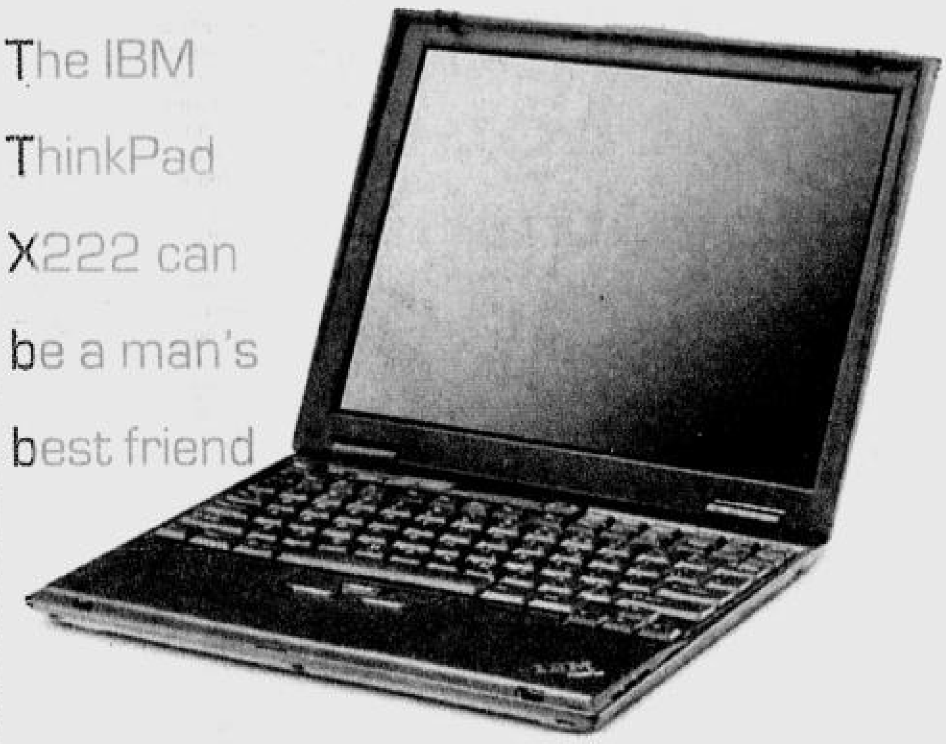
Taking note of notebooks

The IBM ThinkPad X222 can be a man's best friend



By Gary Mercado
2bU! Correspondent

LIFE can be harsh. You can have an injury that can keep you home just when the local basketball tournament you've been waiting to play in for months is set to start. You can miss several appointments because of an injury. Your precious cell phone can go on the blink because of a defective "replacement" LCD screen, and you can't get it fixed immediately because you can't get out of the house. Which is exactly what happened to me.

But just when I thought I had to learn meditation to keep from going nuts, IBM lent me its latest X222 ThinkPad, an Intel Pentium III (with 733 MHz, weighing 3 pounds, with 128 Mb RAM, 20 gigabyte hard disk, 8 Mb video SDRAM, 12.1" TFT XGA screen, with built-in 56k modem, 10/100 ethernet and Bluetooth options). It has an IBM Options webcam, a 1 GB detachable microdrive, detachable CD/DVD and floppy drives, and a tiny key chain-like plug and play gadget that can store 32 Mb called a USB Memory key. All these with instructions from their good-looking, very capable PR guy to "play around with [it] for a few weeks." Suddenly, life is good.

Mind you, up to now I had never really been a big fan of notebooks. I was "issued" my first notebook years ago in a previous employment, and I found the thing bulky, heavy and slow. Add to that was the fact that it was just a little less expensive than my car, so I was always nervous when lugging it around, which I had to do a lot of since I couldn't just leave it in the car. That thing remained firmly secured to my desk, negating the mobility I was supposed to enjoy.

My second notebook was a hand-me-down, smuggled-from-Taiwan affair with a weak performance. I had a difficulty in finding parts for it. Its processor gave a passable performance—and it was considerably better than the first—but it seriously lacked memory, which I could only buy from the Internet at almost P6,000 per 32 Mb. I struggled with it, but eventually the motherboard gave out, probably partly due to the strain of handling processing alone sans appropriate RAM.

Nope, as far as performance, stability and ease of use are concerned, nothing came close to a true desktop PC in all its heavy, aluminum glory. With a 17" monitor, a comfy chair and coffee, I could create a website, shoot terrorists, write this article and shoot terrorists again in stress-free computing glee.

Not until, of course, the X222 came along. Did I say their PR guy was good-looking?

Series

Before anything else, let's look at its siblings—the rest of the IBM ThinkPad lineup and where my model stands. There are four series of notebooks, each having its own top, mid and "affordable" model, differentiated mainly by purpose.

The X Series I'm using is for the "extremely mobile professional" and boasting "extra light, small ultraportable" features. There is also a T Series that has a "balance of performance and portability for office and the road," an R Series that says the same thing but adds "easy on the budget," and finally the A Series, the most popular series, which offers itself as a "high-performance desktop alternative."

You will normally find either the R or A Series in PC stores at the malls. If you learn to read between the lines from reading as many techie brochures as I have, the differences are more obvious.

The X Series is the flashier sibling with an emphasis on portability. It makes up for a lack of drives and modular bays by being small—11" x 8.9", or a little bigger than a short bond paper. This means if you need to read a DVD, CD or a floppy, you have to attach an external drive, but at least it fits in most bags. It also has the smallest screen and the lowest processor in the group, but again makes up for this by having the longest battery life (five hours listed, more like 4.3 realistically) and is very light at 3.4 pounds, as much as a thick textbook, and can be easily carried with one hand. But this little guy isn't for the image-editing, number-crunching power user, so this is where its bigger siblings come in.

The T and R Series are almost identical, with only marginal differences in screen sizes and drive options. The difference is in the price. The A Series is the big brother of them all, covering all the bases with full options on all features such as a Pentium III 1.13 GHz processor, up to 1 GHz. RAM and a 15" screen with 1,600x1,200 resolution. But it's a real back-breaker at 7.6 pounds.

The two series share some features such as integrated 802.11b wireless, Ethernet and a 56k modem. Preloaded operating systems are either MS Win 2k, XP Pro or Win98SE. IBM Thinkpads boast of notable specific features such as the UltraPort Connector, which has a webcam or a Bluetooth device on top of the screen, a built-in antisnooping feature called Embedded Security, and a ThinkLight Keyboard Light, which is helpful when working in the dark.

Some models have specific features, such as a Titanium Composite cover that's three times tougher than ABS plastic. The T Series has top and bottom protection; the X Series has one on the top only. Only the A Series has a built-in Bluetooth. The other series have it as an option.

Options

Our window shopping continues as we look at IBM Options. Here we find standard external USB CD, DVD, CDR, Floppy or combo drives, essentials to my model as they don't come attached. There is also a USB Serial/Parallel adapter, in case you want to attach printers and scanners.

Enough with the basic stuff, let's get down to the interesting gear. The UltraPort Camera II is a tiny sliver of a webcam attached to the top of the screen and is used for video conferencing, and capturing and editing images or video. Installing and using it is very easy, although the software offers only basic capabilities.

Two webcam applications of note is Visionics' FaceIt, which locks your PC and unlocks it when you present your face for recognition. I still need to get used to this as I'm not sure if it would recognize me every time. If it doesn't, the only way to get around it is a hard reboot, which I am loath to do on a borrowed PC. The other is Odyssey's Watchdog, which activates the webcam upon detecting activity, and then either e-mails the video, sounds an alarm or silently records events. Now you can use your PC as a security device.

Performance

Notebook advantages are aplenty. Untethered by a power cord, you are free to work anywhere, anytime, theoretically increasing productivity. But if that's true, then why do most people keep theirs at home or in the office? That's because in real life, one has to face practical issues like theft and the prospect of lugging around a 10-plus-pound bag. And let's face it, although brochures boast that you can work on reports at the beach, I'm willing to bet my defective (not my fault) cell phone that work is the last thing on your mind if you're there. No siree, when at the beach, I'll make sure this thing is securely in my drawer, approximately 2,000 km away.

However, the X222 with its sleek casing and ample computing power make a very strong case against leaving it behind. The Titanium casing gives it a tough look and feel, and the crisp, easy-to-get-used-to keypad is a joy to pound on. The two most significant reasons I like is its hardbound book-like weight and size and, of course, the reliability and support only a major name like IBM can provide.

The X222 will serve as an excellent second computer, a portable mini version of your full-fledged PC. It's available at an advertised P90,000 with a three-year warranty, but be prepared to spring a little more for an external USB CD, CDR or CD/DVD drive. You can, however, attach the two via Ethernet and you'll be able to share what you already have and save a bundle.

E-mail the author at gary@exchange.ph

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NO more braids PHOTO BY ERNIE SARMIENTO

Going STRAIGHT

By Pam Pastor

A CONSTANT in my 21 years of existence, aside from my passion for writing and love for music, is my battle with my hair.

It supposedly began when I was born. Unlike most babies who are born bald or with delicate wisps of hair framing their tiny faces, I came out of my mother's womb with a thick mop that stood on end. "*Para kang* troll," people like telling me to this day. And they are not being nasty—they actually have pictures to back it up.

Perhaps in the attempt to control my mane, my mom decided to keep my hair ultra-short all throughout my childhood (except for the time I decided to get a perm—but let's not go into that). I remember trying to imagine myself with nice long, straight hair, but at the time, the image just didn't work.

After surviving adolescence and high school and therefore gaining control over essential decisions like hair, I decided to start letting it grow.

I tried home remedies several times—baby oil didn't work. Nor did pouring olive oil straight from the microwave and raw egg—I ended up scalding myself and having cooked eggs on my head.

Still, long hair was convenient—ponytails and braids hid my flaws. Looking presentable meant me coming up with all sorts of variations to your good old braid. That was hair grooming for me—as long as I kept it away from my face, I was fine. That is, until I realized that I liked letting my hair hang loose on certain occasions. This posed a problem for me especially since, one, I am a complete klutz when it comes to handling the blow-dryer, and two, I simply don't have the patience to spend eons of time on my looks (I don't even like looking at the mirror).

There were a few times that I was seen with a halfway decent-looking hair. That was the result of sitting in a salon for over an hour reading a book or texting while a poor hairdresser struggled to dry my tangled waves to pseudo-perfection. My hair is so thick that hairdressers actually need to take a break halfway through the process. "*Pang-dalawang tao ang buhok mo,*" I remember one sweaty stylist telling me. I could do nothing but look apologetic and sheepish.

But my run-off-to-the-salon-and-have-them-dry-it trick doesn't always work. Months ago, I left the house with almost picture-perfect straight hair. But when I got out of the car, it started to rain, which wet my head in the process. I ended up spending the whole night at NU 107's 2001 Rock Awards completely oblivious to my frizzy mess. It's disaster like this that makes me sometimes seriously consider going bald or just going for broke—dreadlocks.

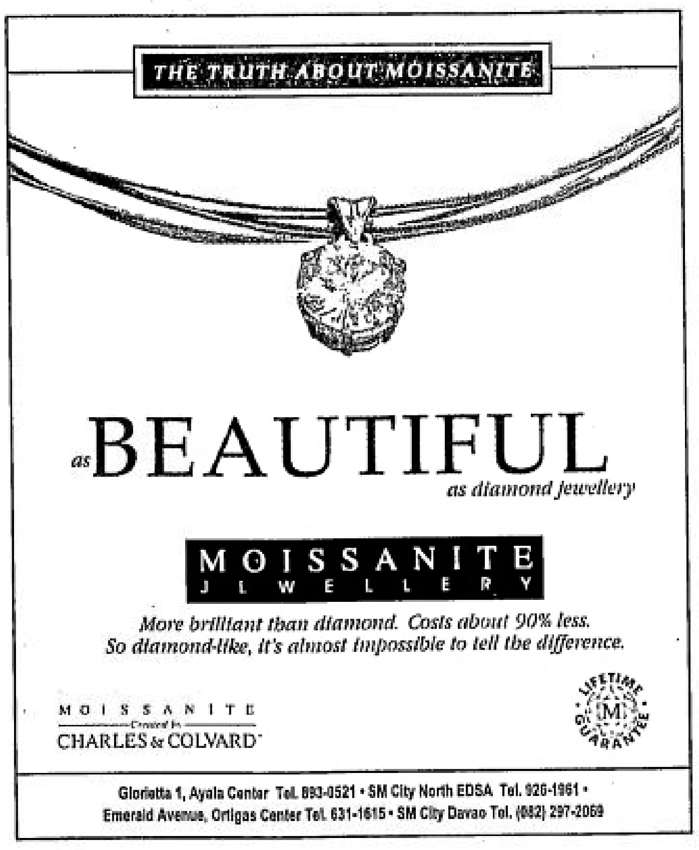
Not anymore

But not anymore. I've left that world. After reading Thelma San Juan's column a few weeks back, I found the answer to my problem—straight-perming.

Not long after that, I found myself sitting at the Ricky Reyes Salon in Greenhills, ready for my transformation.

The process took longer than I expected. Any guy who could sit with me throughout the entire treatment would definitely gain major *pogi* points. The attendants shampooed, rinsed and applied goop to my hair. Then I had to sit under red lights for a long time—thank God I brought two books and a magazine. I was again shampooed. Then they blow-dried my hair and started to "iron" it. I had to endure a few tugs at the scalp, but slowly seeing my hair becoming straight eased the pain. "Ironing" took a while. I felt my ass starting to go numb. Getting a bit bored, I fidgeted and jumped from reading to writing to texting. I thought it was over. But they

GOING/ p.E2



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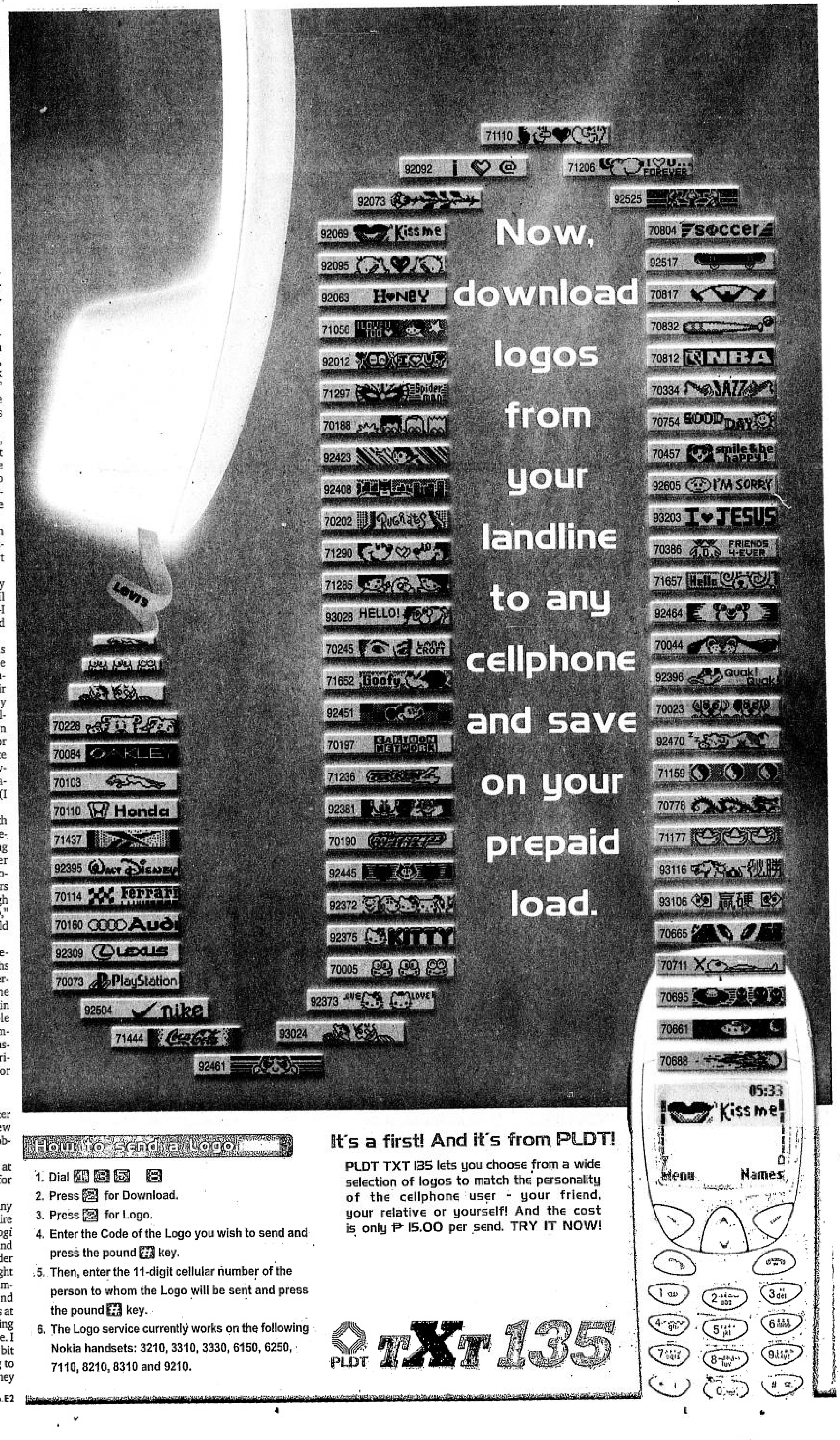

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Going STRAIGHT

From page E1

SUN-TORTURED. Pam's wavy, unruly tangles at their worst

applied goop to my hair again and let it sit for 20 minutes before shampooing it off. By this time, I was trading stories with one of the women slaving over my stubborn locks. I was again blow-dried and "ironed." All throughout the treatment, people kept streaming into the salon to inquire about straight-perm. I could see the woman behind the front desk repeatedly gesturing toward me to give potential clients an idea of how their hair would look if they had it done. Some of them actually walked over to watch. I had to stifle a smile; I felt like an animal in a zoo.

Maintaining your straight hair means using the prescribed shampoo, conditioner and treatment crème and going back for touch-ups after six months.

All in all, the process took eight hours and a cut from my savings. (Should you go for it, you would be spending P2,000-7,000 depending on the length of your hair.) But it's all worth it. (Besides, I did a minor computation—one that my Math-challenged brain can handle—and discovered that the cost of a straight-perm is still way lower compared to having your hair blown dry every day for six months.) You will be asked not to tuck your hair behind your ears and not to shampoo for four days, but the ick factor notwithstanding, the whole process is worth it. Based on the people's reactions to my makeover, yes, it's worth it.

I stepped out of the salon feeling completely different. My head seemed much, much lighter. And my hair, which used to be only halfway down my back, was now almost to my waist. And people actually turned to stare at my hair. My mom said, "Wow, you look like a girl." (Err, what was I before?) My cousins, "*Hindi ka namin nakilala.*" Those who've seen my hair at its worst are now asking where I had mine done so they could go there, too. Countless people have said that I could be a shampoo model (Yeah, right.) And I have gotten a lot of ribbing from the people in the office. "*Sino ka?*," "*Si* Pam *ba yan?*" and even worse, "*Magandang* handbag!" (Groan!)

I had no idea my hair had that much power.

Even weirder is the fact that strangers actually come up to make comments about my hair. I never thought this could happen, not even in my wildest dreams. The most memorable (because it was the weirdest) experience happened a couple of days after the treatment.

My cousins and I decided to go to Malate for a night out. We ended up having a late dinner in a restaurant around midnight. I already noticed the extraordinary number of waiters who were milling around our table. I thought it was because they were rushing to close shop. But nope. I was wrong.

As I stood up to leave, they all huddled around me and started talking all at once. "Ma'am, *ang ganda ng buhok niyo.*" "Ma'am, *isa pang ngiti diyan.*" I lost my wit right there. I was so surprised I could do nothing but mutter "*Salamat*" before rushing outside in disbelief. I felt like I was in a shampoo commercial from hell. I wanted to tell them, "Back off. This is just hair. I'm the same person without hair."

Minus the unwanted attention, I have to admit I'm enjoying my good hair days tremendously. I am enjoying it so much that I've already marked my next treatment day in my calendar.

I kinda miss my braids though.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph

From *witch* to *Morticia*

By Jules Alcantara
2bU! Correspondent

BRUHA NO MORE. Jules and her ultra-straight hair

PHOTO: ERNIE SARMIENTO

BRUHA.

This is the first thought that comes to mind the minute I wake up and take a look at myself in the mirror. This idea becomes reinforced, of course, since my brothers never fail to point it out to me. Nope, I don't grow fangs overnight or bat wings.

It's the hair. I have long, thick, wild, wavy and unruly hair, no thanks to my father's genes.

The first thing normal people do when they wake up is brush their teeth or wash their faces. The first thing I do is search for something to tie my hair. For as long as I can remember, I have been a slave to ponytail holders, scrunchies, elastics, hair clamps and virtually anything that can serve as control over my hair. To date, I have spent good money on several gadgets such as industrial-strength blow dyers and ironing rods. But I must stress though that I never got around to using them much since my hair was way too thick that my arms hurt every time I attempted to blow-dry my hair. Hair sprays, polish, anti-frizz, gloss, hair wax, extra strength conditioners—these things don't ever begin to cover the number of gook that I have road-tested over the years. At one point, I even bought a jar of mayonnaise—expressly not for the purpose of making chicken spread but to use it to condition my hair and perhaps tame it. Yup, I've also tried all kinds of oil—although I must point out that the thought of slathering crude oil (as my brother once lovingly suggested) did scare the bejeezus out of me. I hadn't reached that degree of desperation yet.

Desperation did bring me to the salon periodically to have my hair relaxed or straightened a couple of years ago. For those not in the know, the process of hair straightening/relaxing puts your threshold of pain to the test. They apply industrial-strength chemicals on your tresses to straighten stubborn curls. The chemicals can easily burn your scalp. Your scalp stings and itches so much that your toes curl in pain. And if you happen to have lots of curly baby hair in your hairline, then even your forehead sometimes is not spared. But you know, all these pain and torture can easily be ignored all for the cause of vanity—if you actually step out of the salon with wonderfully straight hair. Unfortunately, your hair ends up looking strangely similar to *walis tingting*. Sure it's straight. It's so straight that it doesn't even move unless a cyclone hits you. You can't run your fingers through it and washing your hair becomes an exercise in futility—your hair is so stiff when it gets wet that even the best of conditioners don't stand a chance.

Needless to say, I gave up on that too. I got tired of my Raggedy Ann, yarn-like hair. It came to the point that I had ceased to curse my dad's genes that brought about the un-glorious hair. If I wanted to look "foxy" (as how my friends call me every time my hair was down), all I had to do was go to the salon and have it blow-dried. Technology might have already explored cloning. But I didn't think scientists took time out from fiddling with those little things in their Petri dishes and exclaimed, " I'll invent something to remedy those wild unruly hair!" No one gets awarded the Nobel Prize for that.

Jaded

So I was really quite jaded when a friend told me about rebonding. But I couldn't help but envy how her hair looked so naturally straight and soft—to think that her hair used to give the words frizzy and kinky a new dimension. A few days after, I happened to catch a glimpse of a customer's hair being rebonded in Hairbytes Salon in Forbes. I could not help but be amazed at her transformation. In fact, she was so happy with her hair that she even let a stranger like me, run my fingers through her hair.

So after much rumination and conducting a survey among family members and friends (who amazingly had fallen in love with my curls over the years), I finally decided to set an appointment at Hairbytes Salon in Forbes. When Ricky, the receptionist, painstakingly explained over the phone the whole procedure of rebonding, I felt confident that the trick would do. According to Ricky, Hairbytes was the first salon to ever offer rebonding services. When he told me that their hair-stylist trained abroad, I was then sure that this was not going to be run of the mill.

I must admit though that I sat down on the salon chair on the day of my appointment still filled with trepidation. I had been burned (literally and figuratively speaking) so many times in the past that I was actually calling on to St. Jude and all the angels and saints in heaven. It was a good thing that Red Lopez, one of the creative directors of the salon, took time out not only to study the grain of my hair. Together with Teejay, Robert and Lando (yup, I had three people attending to my hair), they all exerted effort to walk me through and explain the procedure.

First step in rebonding is intense repair of the cuticles of the hair. Afterward, the crème for the straightening process is applied from roots to tips of the hair using a comb. At this point, whatever fears I had disappeared. The chemicals didn't hurt at all. It felt good that close, personalized attention was given to my hair. There was none of the burning sensation. They made sure that the straightening medicine was combed through my hair, extra attention being given to the stubborn curls in my hairline. After washing off the medicine, they dried and flattened my hair with straightening rod for a test run to see if there were any curls or waves left. The procedure was done one more time and finally neutralizer was sprayed and cream was massaged on my hair. After another wash, my hair was dried and straightened with the ironing rod one last time. Voila! I finally understood the concept of hair being one's crowning glory!

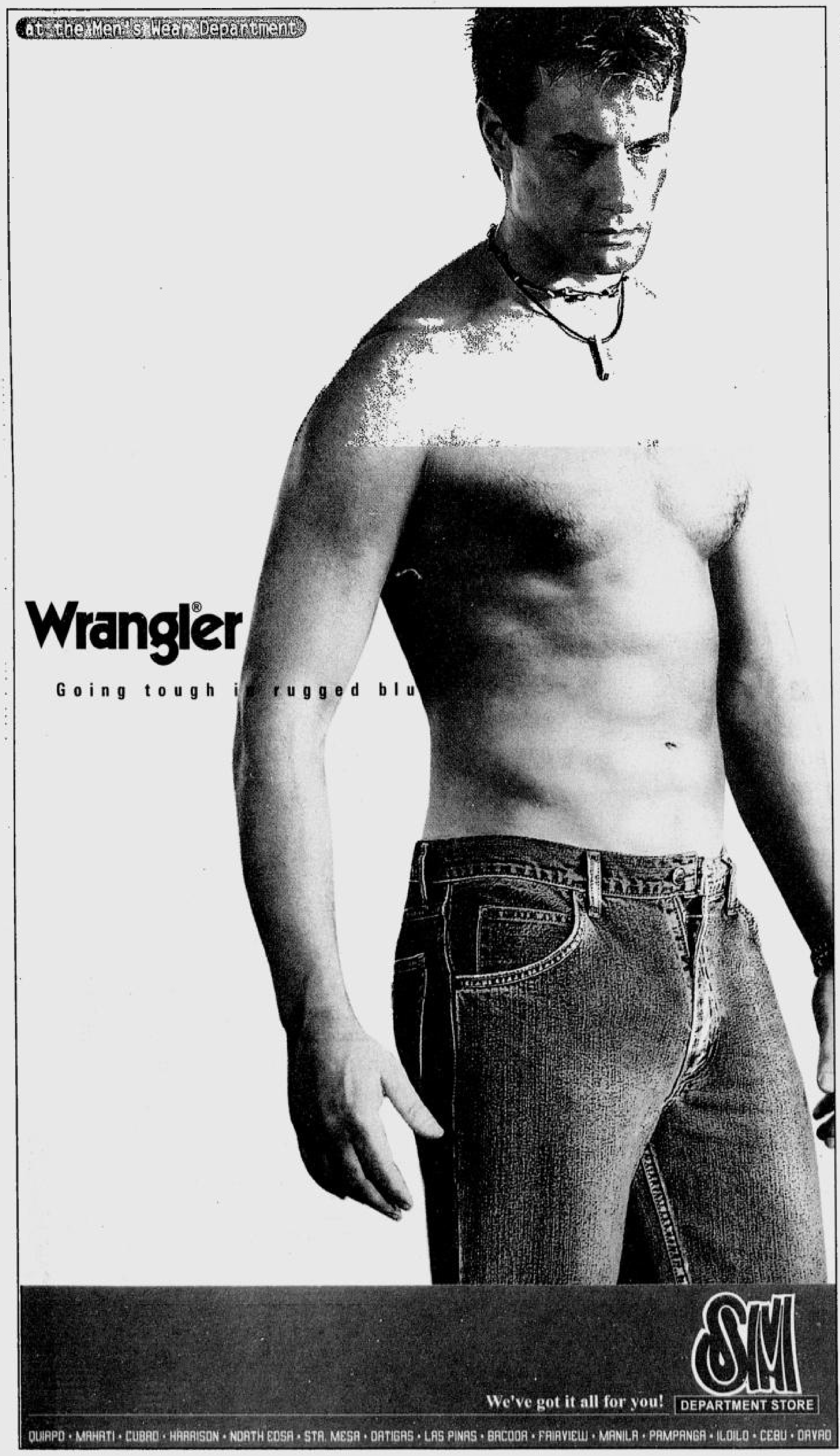
My hair was straight as a rod. It was soft and shiny. To top it all off, my hair actually moved! It was not at all stiff!

The long, tedious process (especially for the three guys who attended to my hair) surely paid off. My hair looked so good it was as if I was born with straight hair!

No one calls me "*bruha*" now. I've gone to the next level—my grandma now calls me "*la bruja hermosa.*"

Oh, and my brother? He calls me Morty now. You know, short for Morticia Addams!

E-mail the author at jules_alcantara@pinoycentral.com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Striking yet toned down summer look

Make OVER 911

Kinny Salas

I LOOK my best in red clothes. Now that it's summer, I find it too overpowering compared to everyone's pastels. I still get compliments, but I look so out of place in pictures. Do I follow the trend or stick to the colors I look best in?

SCARLET

You can still wear red articles of clothing during summer. What probably makes you look so overpowering is that you either wear all red or you pair them up with dark colors like black or dark denim. Summarize your reds by mixing and matching them with khakis, whites and beiges. Instead of a black skirt, a tight beige skirt, slacks or shorts is perfect for a striking but more toned down summer look. You may even have fun by wearing red sandals or heels in the evenings.

Of course, wearing the same color all summer can be boring so you may want to invest in lighter colors. If you look good in yellow-based reds like scarlet or orange-red pastel colors, then peach, cream, camels and off-whites are more suited for you. If blue-based reds like crimson and russian reds are better on you, go for true whites, pale gray, pale blue and ice pink. You can still wear the trendier limes and orange even if they do nothing for your complexion as long as you wear them away from your face, e.g. as pants or shorts.

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

* * *

I AM only 25 years old, but I noticed crow's feet around my eyes. They only used to appear whenever I smile, but now even with a straight face they are there. I have always been very proud of my clear porcelain skin, but these lines are really depressing me. What can I do?

CATHLEEN

It has nothing to do with age. Twenty-five is young, but more likely your crow's feet was caused by abuse such as sunning, smoking and exaggerated expressions. Genetically, some of us are also born with thinner and more fragile skin, which sounds a lot like you. This very beautiful complexion unfortunately gets crinkles earlier and at the slightest provocation.

For an emergency quick remedy, plump this area up with eye cream like Clinique's All About Eyes or Bio Elements Vitamineral Power Pen. For long-term prevention and improvement, protect your eye area from the sun like anything. Invest in big wrap-around shades (the biggest you can get away with).

Look for eye treatment creams with antioxidants to reverse the aging process while protecting skin at the same time. Treatments with Vitamins C and E, such as Estée Lauder's Unline, have both plus soothing green tea and whey protein to boost skin firming collagen. These creams are designed to prevent and treat damage to skin. Other products with good reviews in the United States are Nivea Visage Q10 Wrinkle control eye cream and Repechange Opti firm eye contour.

* * *

I LOVE lipsticks with staying power. Problem is when I remove them at night the color stains my lips and no amount of scrubbing removes them totally. The next day the color mixes with my new lipshades. How do I remove these totally? My lipsticks are not the cheap. They are brand name and cost between P650-900+ so I refuse to stop using them. I have no problem with their smell, texture and there are no allergic reactions or dryness. It is just that they work too well.

LUSCIOUS

Non-oily eye makeup remover is the best bet. If you want a product specifically for lips, Shiseido has formulated a remover designed for their long-lasting lipsticks. This, too, cannot be removed by anything else. This product effectively breaks down the pigment and bonding properties of transfer-resistant lipsticks.

For any questions or products you want to road-test, write to Makeover 911, PDI Lifestyle or fax at 897-4805

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Can't wait to join? Then write a 400-word English essay on an environmental topic that interests you, giving your personal opinion on the issue and possible solutions to the problem. Send it with the completed application form below, a detailed resumé and a copy of your valid passport on or before May 25, 2002. You could soon be on your way to the wilderness of South Africa and helping the planet! Visit our website @ www.cathaypacific.com/ph

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APPLICATION FORM
CATHAY PACIFIC

ATTACH PHOTO

Date

I hereby apply for participation of my child in the
Cathay Pacific International Wilderness Experience from July 21-31, 2001

SIGNED __________
(parent / guardian)
CHILD'S NAME __________
SCHOOL __________
DATE OF BIRTH __________
SEX _____ AGE _____ PLACE OF BIRTH __________
NATIONALITY __________
MAILING ADDRESS __________
ZIP CODE _____ TELEPHONE (office) _____ FAX _____
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POST YOUR APPLICATION FORM TO:

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Manila: 25/F Trafalgar Plaza Building
106 Dela Costa Street Salcedo Village,
Makati City, Philippines

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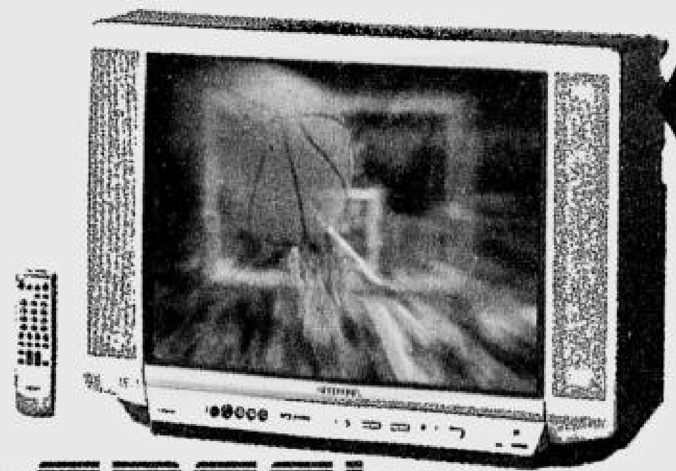

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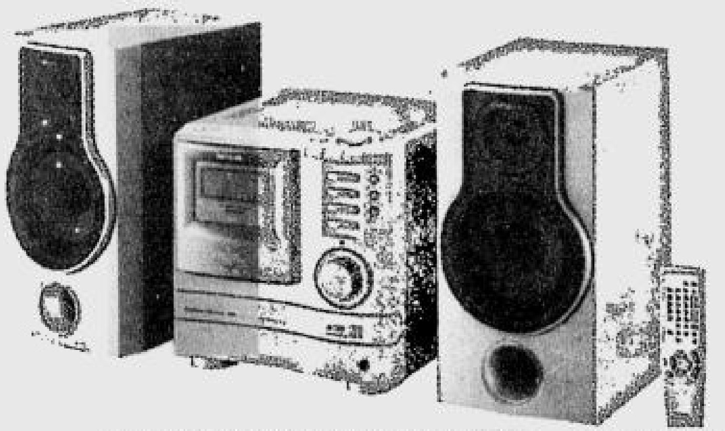

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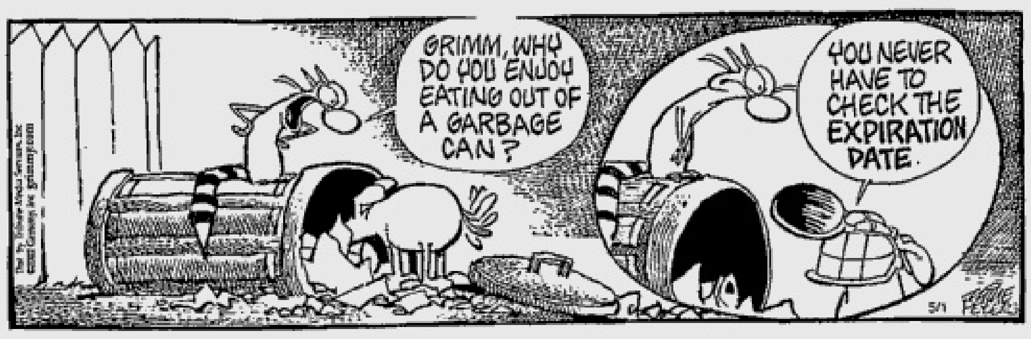
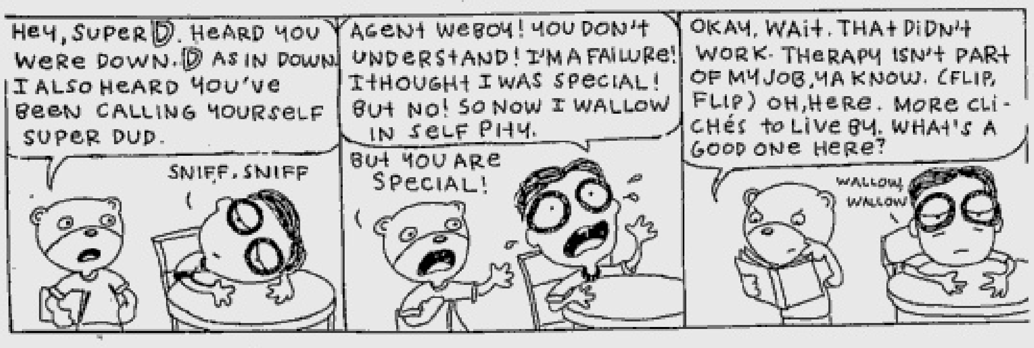
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


GRIMM, WHY DO YOU ENJOY EATING OUT OF A GARBAGE CAN?
YOU NEVER HAVE TO CHECK THE EXPIRATION DATE.
5/1

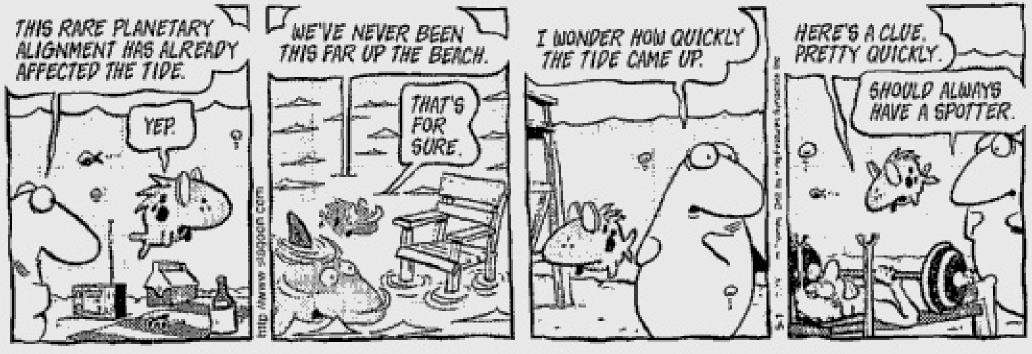
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey, Super D. Heard you were down. D as in down. I also heard you've been calling yourself super dud.
SNIFF. SNIFF
Agent Weboy! You don't understand! I'm a failure! I thought I was special! But no! So now I wallow in self pity.
But you are special!
Okay. Wait. That didn't work. Therapy isn't part of my job, ya know. (Flip, flip) Oh, here. More clichés to live by. What's a good one here?
WALLOW, WALLOW

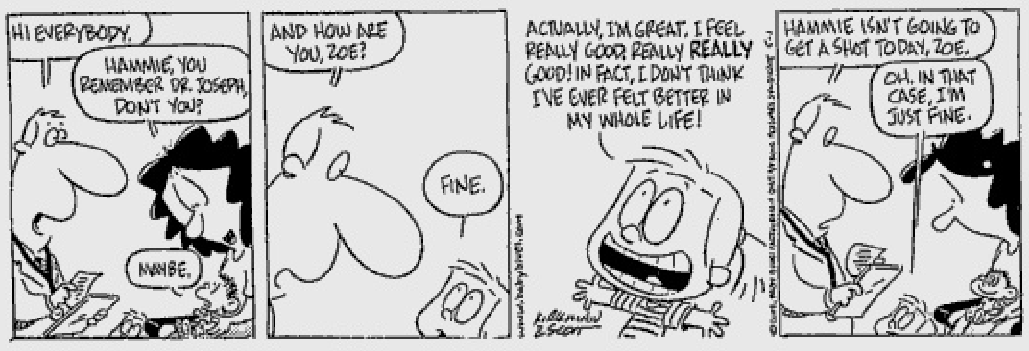
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


THIS RARE PLANETARY ALIGNMENT HAS ALREADY AFFECTED THE TIDE.
YEP.
WE'VE NEVER BEEN THIS FAR UP THE BEACH.
THAT'S FOR SURE.
I WONDER HOW QUICKLY THE TIDE CAME UP.
HERE'S A CLUE. PRETTY QUICKLY.
SHOULD ALWAYS HAVE A SPOTTER.
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HI EVERYBODY.
HAMMIE, YOU REMEMBER DR. JOSEPH, DON'T YOU?
MAYBE.
AND HOW ARE YOU, ZOE?
FINE.
ACTUALLY, I'M GREAT. I FEEL REALLY GOOD. REALLY REALLY GOOD! IN FACT, I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER FELT BETTER IN MY WHOLE LIFE!
HAMMIE ISN'T GOING TO GET A SHOT TODAY, ZOE.
OH. IN THAT CASE, I'M JUST FINE.
Kirkman Scott

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Glenn Ford, Harry Belafonte, Tim McGraw

Happy Birthday: You will move into the role of leadership regarding personal financial affairs. Take a serious look at your investments, wills or any other personal papers that may require updating or changes. The time has come to reevaluate your position and to make a decision that will bring positive results. Your numbers are 2, 5, 14, 22, 38, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You will easily upset someone today if you are insensitive to his or her needs. Work quietly behind the scenes for best results.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Travel and romance should be a top priority. If you are in a relationship, plan something special; if you aren't, get out and meet new people. Travel will lead tointeresting connection.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Dealing with other people's money or possessions will be conducive to greater cash flow but also put you in a position that is demanding.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Talk to family members about your future concerns. An investment opportunity could turn into a moneymaker. Get involved with sports activities.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): No matter what you are involved in today you will reap the rewards if you are dedicated and hardworking. Don't let your personal life interfere with your productivity .

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will be entertaining and engaging, and an opportunity to have a romantic encounter will develop through travel or educational pursuits.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You may want to keep a low profile today. Avoid getting into a debate with a friend or relative. You will be a little touchy and should refrain from discussing personal matters.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your finesse and charm will draw others to your side today. The more you do to help others the more you will get in return. This is your chance to drum up the support you need.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Financial opportunities are present. The more you do to help others the better your chances are to move into a leadership position. You should clear up domestic duties that have been left unfinished.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will get angry with yourself regarding a financial matter that concerns joint accounts or outrageous contributions. Don't overspend; keep your money in a safe place.

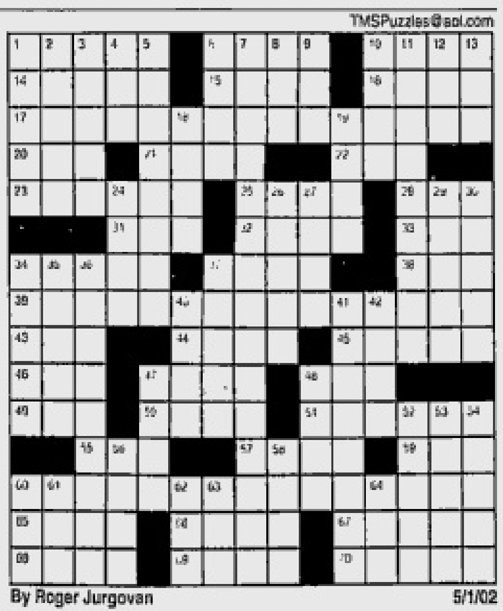
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will have some ingenious ideas when it comes to business. Someone may try to take credit for the work you have done. Direct your energy into a moneymaking venture .

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Educational pursuits will bring you the knowledge necessary to obtain the professional position of your choice. Business trips will be lucrative. Believe in yourself .

Birthday Baby: You will be charming in your self-expression and everyone will love your company. You will be very friendly to everyone and always be willing to help others. You will love to travel, but will only do so if you can afford to go first class.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Roger Jurgovan
Potomac, MD

5/1/02

ACROSS
1 Urges
6 Muscat's country
10 Ooze
14 Famous fabler
15 Call to the phone
16 Woody's son
17 Wholly unresponsive
20 Part of ERA
21 Soft drink
22 Put two and two together
23 Rock on the edge
25 Fast planes, for short
28 Belief: suff.
31 Thurman of "The Truth about Cats & Dogs"
32 Perched on
33 Numbers pro
34 Brazilian dance in duple time
37 Andy's pal
38 Be ill
39 Neatly done
43 Molder
44 Cow barn
45 Yuletide songs
46 Eclectic collection
47 Eldest Baldwin brother
48 No __ intended
49 Vim
50 Protestant denom.
51 Severe sore throat
55 __ polloi
57 Grasp
59 Xenon or neon
60 Imperious
65 Yours and mine
66 Beget
67 __ Haute, IN
68 Try
69 Submachine gun
70 Relaxed

DOWN
1 Anwar of Egypt
2 Rile
3 Employment
4 Gangster's heater
5 Astronaut
6 Iridescent gemstone
7 Crazy
8 In the past
9 Keanu Reeves in "The Matrix"
10 Smooth with an abrasive
11 Obliterate
12 Yale alum
13 __ Pot of Cambodia
18 Yellow-billed rail
19 Scrape roughly
24 Orchestra instrument
26 U.S. abolitionist
27 Balderdash!
29 Overflow
30 Toms
34 Discard
35 Solo
36 Figures of speech
37 Until now
40 Fit
41 Overwhelm
42 Tune
47 In the center of
48 Wan
52 Stravinsky and Sikorsky
53 Mother-of-pearl
54 Inquired
56 Remove
58 Overt
60 Cooking vessel
61 Regret
62 Beast of burden
63 Command to Fido
64 President's financial grp.

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

S	O	D	A	■	A	M	O	S	■	M	A	C	E	S
A	D	A	M	■	C	A	N	T	■	E	L	A	T	E
L	I	M	A	J	O	R	C	A	■	S	L	I	T	S
T	E	E	■	O	R	I	E	L	■	C	A	R	E	S
■	■	■	S	I	N	S	■	L	L	A	N	O	■	■
P	E	C	A	N	S	■	D	I	A	L	■	A	L	P
A	L	O	F	T	■	C	O	O	T	S	■	N	E	E
R	E	N	E	■	D	O	N	N	E	■	W	O	V	E
I	N	C	■	C	O	L	E	S	■	M	A	K	E	R
S	A	O	■	A	L	E	E	■	L	A	S	E	R	S
■	■	R	A	R	E	R	■	H	E	L	P	■	■	■
P	A	D	R	E	■	I	D	E	A	L	■	R	E	D
A	N	O	D	E	■	D	E	N	V	E	R	O	N	A
W	E	B	E	R	■	G	E	N	E	■	O	D	O	R
S	W	A	N	S	■	E	R	A	S	■	W	E	S	T

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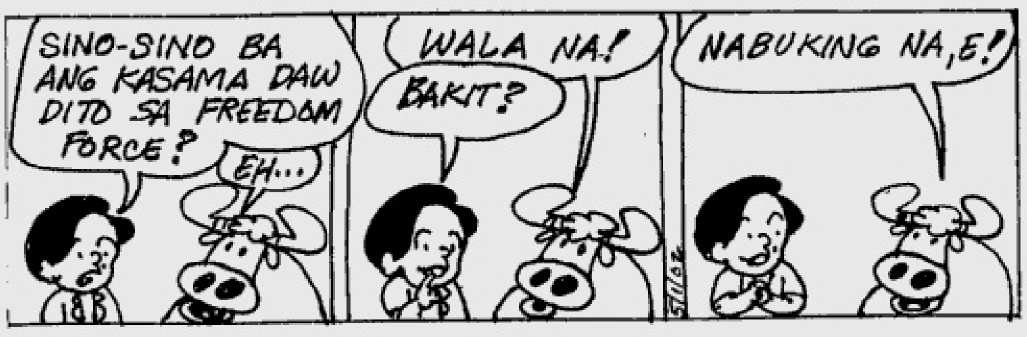
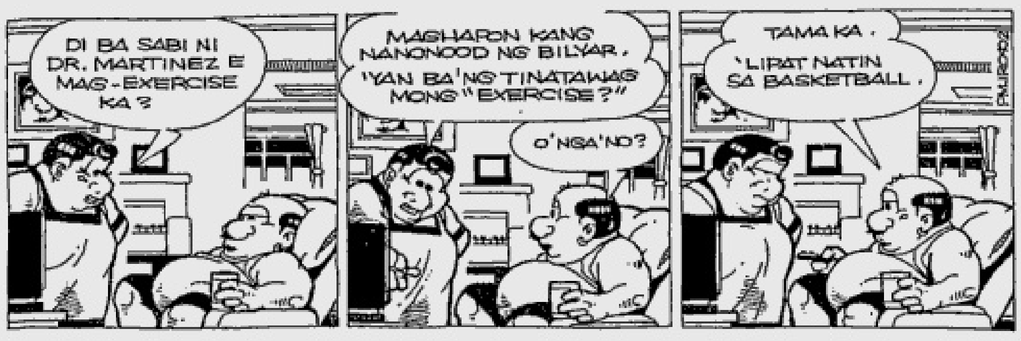
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


SINO-SINO BA ANG KASAMA DAW DITO SA FREEDOM FORCE?
EH...
WALA NA!
BAKIT?
NABUKING NA, E!
5/1/02

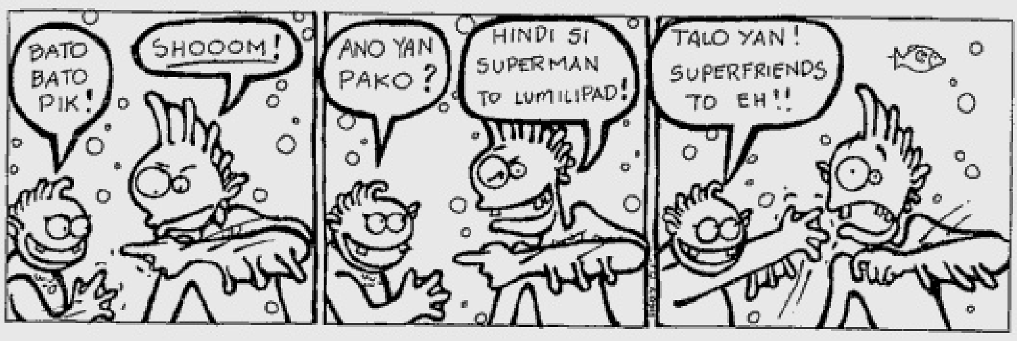
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


DI BA SABI NI DR. MARTINEZ E MAG-EXERCISE KA?
MAGHAPON KANG NANONOOD NG BILYAR. 'YAN BA'NG TINATAWAG MONG "EXERCISE?"
O'NGA'NO?
TAMA KA. 'LIPAT NATIN SA BASKETBALL.

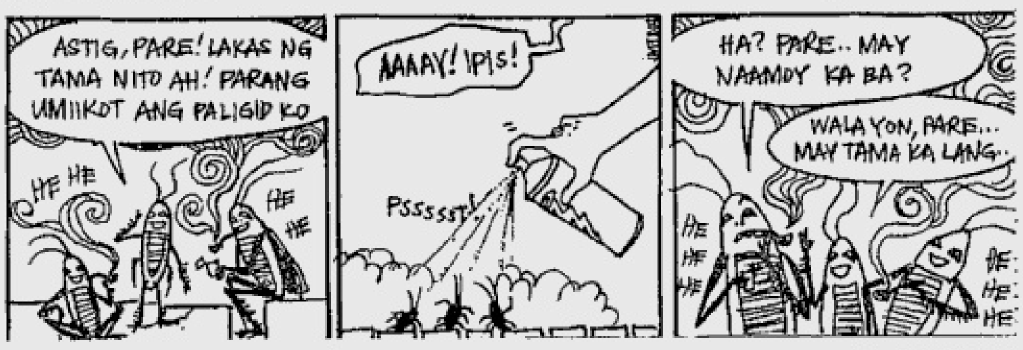
CHICHOY CHOKOY

BY IKOY RICIO


BATO BATO PIK!
SHOOOM!
ANO YAN PAKO?
HINDI SI SUPERMAN TO LUMILIPAD!
TALO YAN! SUPERFRIENDS TO EH!!

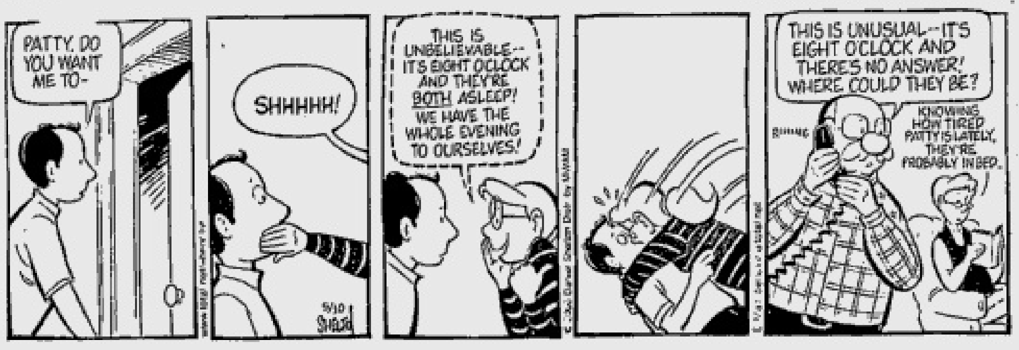
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ASTIG, PARE! LAKAS NG TAMA NITO AH! PARANG UMIIKOT ANG PALIGID KO
HE HE
HE HE
AAAAY! IPIS!
PSSSSST!
HA? PARE.. MAY NAAMOY KA BA?
WALA YON, PARE... MAY TAMA KA LANG..
HE HE HE
HE HE HE

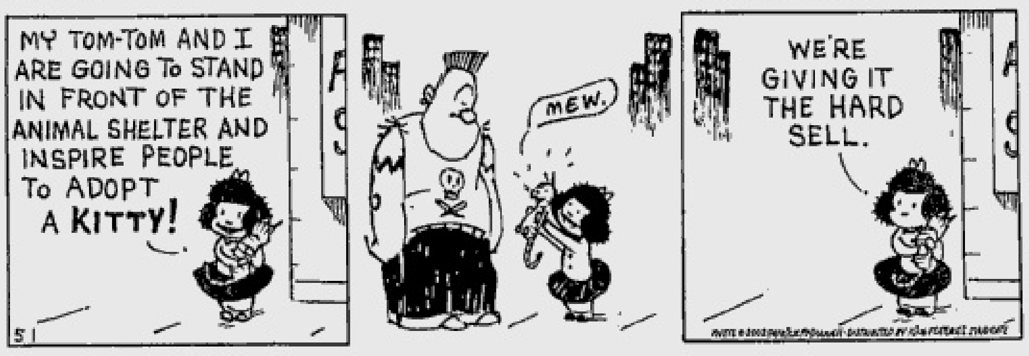
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


PATTY, DO YOU WANT ME TO-
SHHHHH!
THIS IS UNBELIEVABLE-- IT'S EIGHT O'CLOCK AND THEY'RE BOTH ASLEEP! WE HAVE THE WHOLE EVENING TO OURSELVES!
THIS IS UNUSUAL--IT'S EIGHT O'CLOCK AND THERE'S NO ANSWER! WHERE COULD THEY BE?
BRING
KNOWING HOW TIRED PATTY IS LATELY, THEY'RE PROBABLY IN BED...

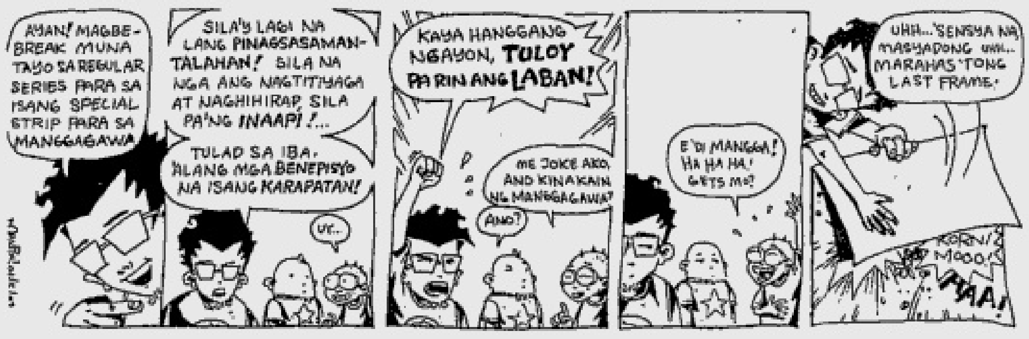
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


MY TOM-TOM AND I ARE GOING TO STAND IN FRONT OF THE ANIMAL SHELTER AND INSPIRE PEOPLE TO ADOPT A KITTY!
MEW.
WE'RE GIVING IT THE HARD SELL.
5 1

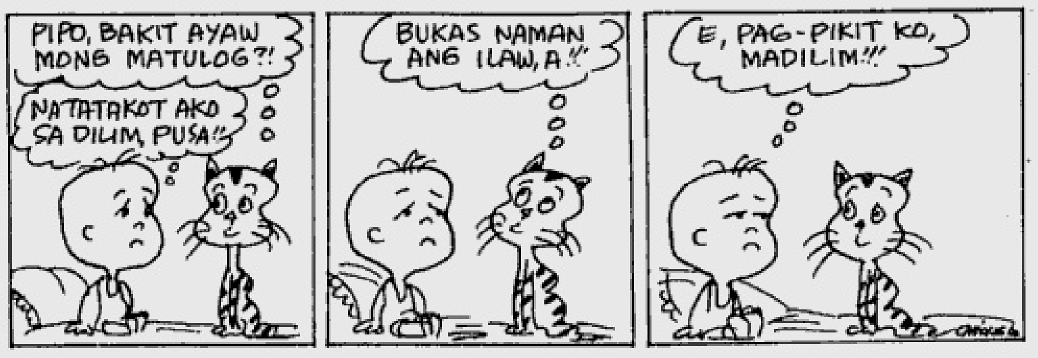
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


AYAN! MAGBE-BREAK MUNA TAYO SA REGULAR SERIES PARA SA ISANG SPECIAL STRIP PARA SA MANGGAGAWA
SILA'Y LAGI NA LANG PINAGSASAMANTALAHAN! SILA NA NGA ANG NAGTITIYAGA AT NAGHIHIRAP, SILA PA'NG INAAPI!...
TULAD SA IBA, 'ALANG MGA BENEPISYO NA ISANG KARAPATAN!
UY..
KAYA HANGGANG NGAYON, TULOY PA RIN ANG LABAN!
ME JOKE AKO, AND KINAKAIN NG MANGGAGAWA?
ANO?
E'DI MANGGA! HA HA HA! GETS MO?
UHH...'SENSYA NA MASYADONG UHH... MARAHAS 'TONG LAST FRAME.
KORNI! MOOO! PAA!

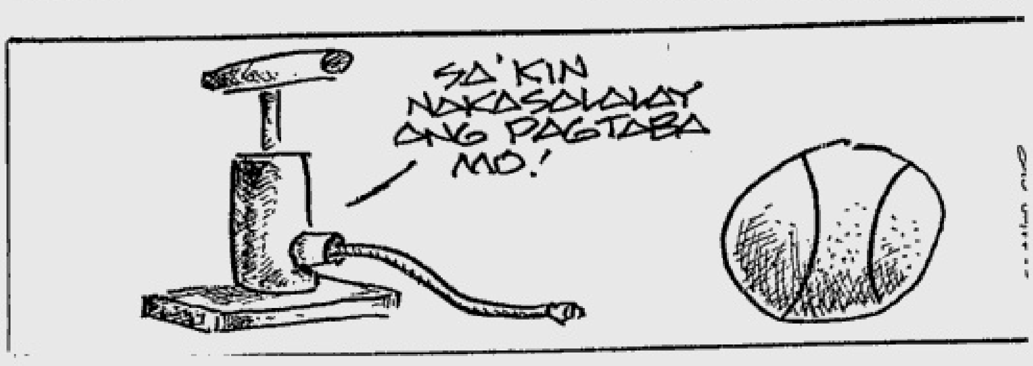
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


PIPO, BAKIT AYAW MONG MATULOG?!
NATATAKOT AKO SA DILIM, PUSA!!
BUKAS NAMAN ANG ILAW, A.!!
E, PAG-PIKIT KO, MADILIM!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


SA'KIN NAKASALALAY ANG PAGTABA MO!

REACTION

Learning discipline the hard way

NO theater group would want to fall under the "fly-by-night" category. But many are accused by such false accusation.

Being in the theater industry more than half his life, this writer has been a witness to producers who, despite their love for the theater, had to say goodbye to their passion. Except perhaps for a few companies who have survived even without having to promote their shows. All theater groups are dependent on marketing. If you don't sell, you don't earn, so you stop producing.

The producer of "Oedipus Rex" and "Two by Torre," however, doesn't belong to this fly-by-night category. On its fourth year, he has brought to his audiences noteworthy productions like Nick Joaquin's "A Portrait of the Artist as Filipino," Sophocles' "Oedipus Rex" (which had 48 performances) and Nestor Torre's "Dialogue" and "A Second Generation." In July, the same production company will mount an adaptation of Ernest Hemingway's "The Old Man and the Sea" and in September, the Hungarian play "The Guardsman" at the GSIS Theater.

A theater graduate from a prestigious university, the producer has no intentions of giving up theater. He lives and breathes theater. The artistic director has been doing plays for the past three decades. These are two people who have had the bittersweet ups and downs. No amount of intrigues and malicious mongering will make them stop from doing plays that do not only entertain but also educate. The producer-directors owe the success of their productions to students not only because they were required to watch but also because they know the company will live up to their expectations.

Tale of caprice

The article, "A cautionary tale," by 2bU! correspondent Walter Ang, is nothing but a tale of caprice born out of irresponsible actors' rudeness and ignorance. A company imposes a certain degree of discipline and punishment because experiences in the past dictate them to do so.

This writer learned discipline in theater the hard way. And that discipline taught him to be considerate of other coworkers in theater, especially in terms of punctuality. How do you consider an actor who comes to rehearsals three hours late? And this is not a one-time happening, mind you.

After the directors got tired of this ill habit, they imposed forms of punishment to those who arrive late for rehearsals and call time during performances. True to the directors' apprehensions, the warning fell on deaf ears. Excuses, reasons, alibis and justifications—ah, they mean nothing in theater. Traffic? Don't make me laugh. Headache? Cut off that silly head and go to rehearsals on time. You have no business being in theater if you can't have this one most important word—discipline.

What's wrong with actors helping in changing sets? And what's wrong with a production that doesn't hire a full-time stage manager for a one-act play with four actors who are not going to have a costume and makeup change? Actors are supposed to know their cues and their personal props. What's wrong with "volunteering" to bring a contemporary costume? What's wrong with asking them to pay for 10 tickets at P1,200 each so their families and friends are assured of tickets when they watch the play? Complimentary? Give me a break. Anybody who claims to have been in theater for a long time should have learned that theater is a cooperative endeavor—be one an actor, spectator or stagehand. And one should have imbibed theater discipline as part of the experience.

That Forestage didn't have production staff in "Two by Torre" was a blatant lie. What do you call the lights board men, sound effects staff, production assistant and ushers? No attendance sheet for latecomers? How many copies do you need?

According to one interviewee, the earnings of the production did not trickle down to the actors. Compensation is not on a profit-sharing scheme. Your fee depends on your skill as an actor and what was agreed upon. And where on earth do you find actors who question the finances of a production: how much it earns in selling programs like popcorns? How much does another actor get? How come he's paid this amount and I'm not? It's just matter of etiquette, you know.

In that same article, the word "exploited" was used. That was too harsh. What happened was a simple imposition of "death penalty" to these so-called exploiters. And through this, I am extending my invitation to all theater producers to try these upstarts. Then let's talk after a week of rehearsals. Did I say a week? I was kidding. What I meant was a day.

Mel Magno

'Spider-Man' promo ongoing

VINTAGE comic books tend to be worth a lot more money these days. And in the case of the early editions of "Spider-Man" comic books, they brought the owner a Nokia 6210.

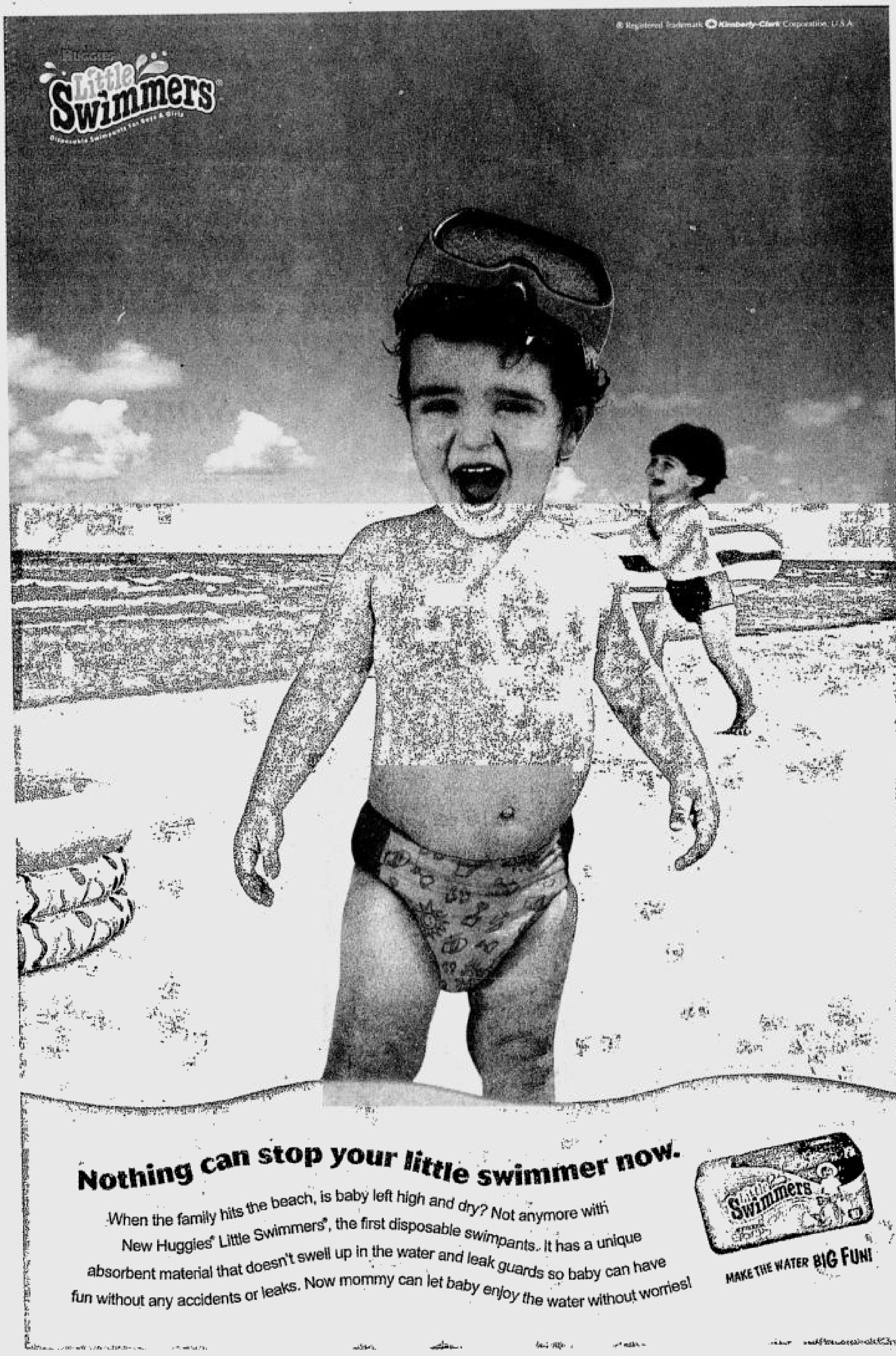
Smart Cinema Club gave away free special screening tickets, Spider-Man T-shirts and a Nokia 6210 to the Smart subscriber who brought the oldest Spider-Man comic book during the advanced screening of the web-slinging film "Spider-Man" on April 30 at SM Megamall Cinema 3.

Smart Cinema Club members also have the chance to win a "Spider-Man" soundtrack CD. They just have to download a Spider-Man logo, group graphic, picture message or screen saver to earn a computer generated raffle entry.

If one is not yet part of Smart's exclusive club for movie lovers, simply type in "Join Cinema" and send to 239.

Want a Spider-Man shirt for free? Just SIM swap to Smart and you automatically get a Spider-Man T-shirt for free. Promo is good until May 31.

"Spider-Man" opens in Philippine cinemas May 3, launching simultaneously with the United States.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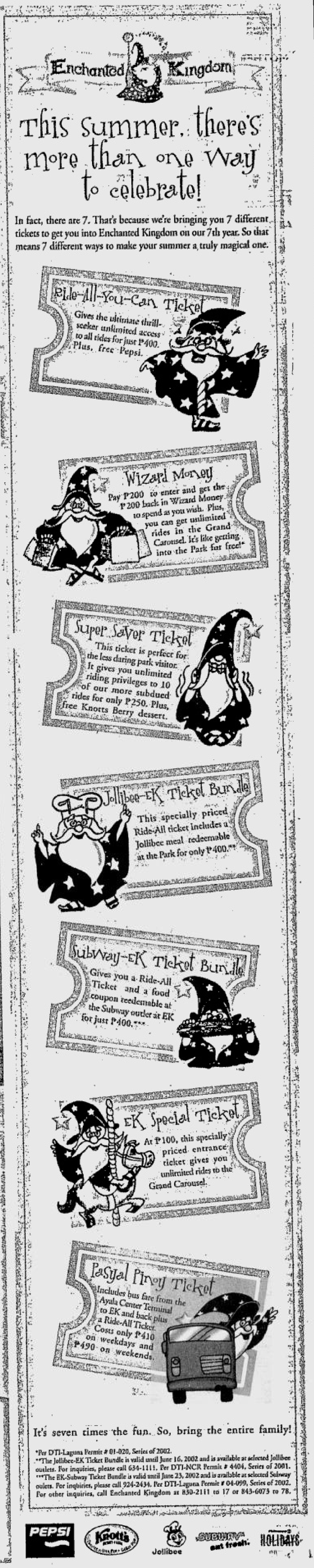
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This summer, there's more than one way to celebrate!

In fact, there are 7. That's because we're bringing you 7 different tickets to get you into Enchanted Kingdom on our 7th year. So that means 7 different ways to make your summer a truly magical one.

Ride-All-You-Can Ticket
Gives the ultimate thrill-seeker unlimited access to all rides for just ₱400. Plus, free Pepsi.

Wizard Money
Pay ₱200 to enter and get the ₱200 back in Wizard Money to spend as you wish. Plus, you can get unlimited rides in the Grand Carousel. It's like getting into the Park for free!*

Super Saver Ticket
This ticket is perfect for the less daring park visitor. It gives you unlimited riding privileges to 10 of our more subdued rides for only ₱250. Plus, free Knotts Berry dessert.

Jollibee-EK Ticket Bundle
This specially priced Ride-All ticket includes a Jollibee meal redeemable at the Park for only ₱400.**

Subway-EK Ticket Bundle
Gives you a Ride-All Ticket and a food coupon redeemable at the Subway outlet at EK for just ₱400.***

EK Special Ticket
At ₱100, this specially priced entrance ticket gives you unlimited rides to the Grand Carousel.

Pasyal Pinoy Ticket
Includes bus fare from the Ayala Center Terminal to EK and back plus a Ride-All Ticket. Costs only ₱410 on weekdays and ₱490 on weekends.

It's seven times the fun. So, bring the entire family!

*Per DTI-Laguna Permit # 01-020, Series of 2002.
**The Jollibee-EK Ticket Bundle is valid until June 16, 2002 and is available at selected Jollibee outlets. For inquiries, please call 634-1111. Per DTI-NCR Permit # 4404, Series of 2001.
***The EK-Subway Ticket Bundle is valid until June 23, 2002 and is available at selected Subway outlets. For inquiries, please call 924-2434. Per DTI-Laguna Permit # 04-099, Series of 2002.
For other inquiries, call Enchanted Kingdom at 830-2111 to 17 or 843-6073 to 78.

PEPSI Knott's Jollibee SUBWAY eat fresh. HOLIDAYS

Young pen pushers learn from master writers

By Christian B. Bautista
2bU! Correspondent

"WRITING is a dying craft. It's nice to find a group of young people who want to be writers," said INQUIRER columnist Conrado de Quiros as established writers crossed paths with the future of Philippine literature in the second annual Teen Read Camp held April 15-19 at the Development Academy of the Philippines, Tagaytay.

> Teen Read Camp proves that writing is alive and well among the young

De Quiros, along with Marjorie Evasco, J. Neil Garcia, Rosario Lucero, Ruel S. De Vera and Lourd de Veyra gave pointers to the 20 fellows chosen for the camp. The fellows—five for the essay, six for fiction and nine for poetry—represented schools from all over Luzon.

This year's fellows were Philippine High School for the Arts' Alyx Arumpac, Lourdes La Viña, Marguerite de Leon and John Bartolome; Baguio City National High School's Monica Macansantos; St. Scholastica's Nerissa Campasano; UP Integrated School's Amianan Padilla and Josefa Nantes; and Miriam College's Elea Andrea Almazora, Ysabelle Reyes, Monica Balictar and Angela Serrano.

Also there were Ateneo's Jose Asuncion; Poveda's Christa Castillo and Anna de la Cruz; St. Paul's Isabelle Baguisi; Community Learner's Karina Cupino; UP Rural High School's Israel Soltura; Southville's Peter Felix and Immaculate Conception Academy's Louella Yu. Marc Escalona Gaba (poetry), Joseph Salazar (fiction) and Jing Panganiban (essay) acted as panelists that evaluated the fellows' works.

Generations

Being among young writers, the camp's speakers could not help but compare the old with the new. "When I was young, we worshipped people like Nick Joaquin. We sought to emulate them. *Dati pasiklaban magsulat.* You had schools like UP and UST competing for literary experience. But you don't find that competition anymore," De Quiros said.

The former Daily Globe opinion editor went on to say that the lack of interest in reading and writing from today's youth stems from the absence of cultural reinforcement that were prevalent during his time. "Emphasizing that reading goes together with writing (is important). Read, read and read. And enjoy the reading process," added Evasco, director of the Bienvenido N. Santos Creative Writing Center at De La Salle University.

Garcia, a literature and creative writing professor in UP, pointed out that events like Teen Read Camp were nonexistent when he was young. "We kind of had writers' workshops, but not like this where you go out of town and everything. I wish we had these," he said.

The camp's speakers also warned campers that choosing "the writing life," as one lecture was titled, posed some obstacles. De Quiros said, "Writing is an open invitation to poverty," adding that fame might come but not necessarily with fortune.

De Vera said that abstaining from writing for some time might dull one's writing skills. "If you don't make an effort to write in college, you will lose it," he warns the college-bound campers.

Creativity workshops

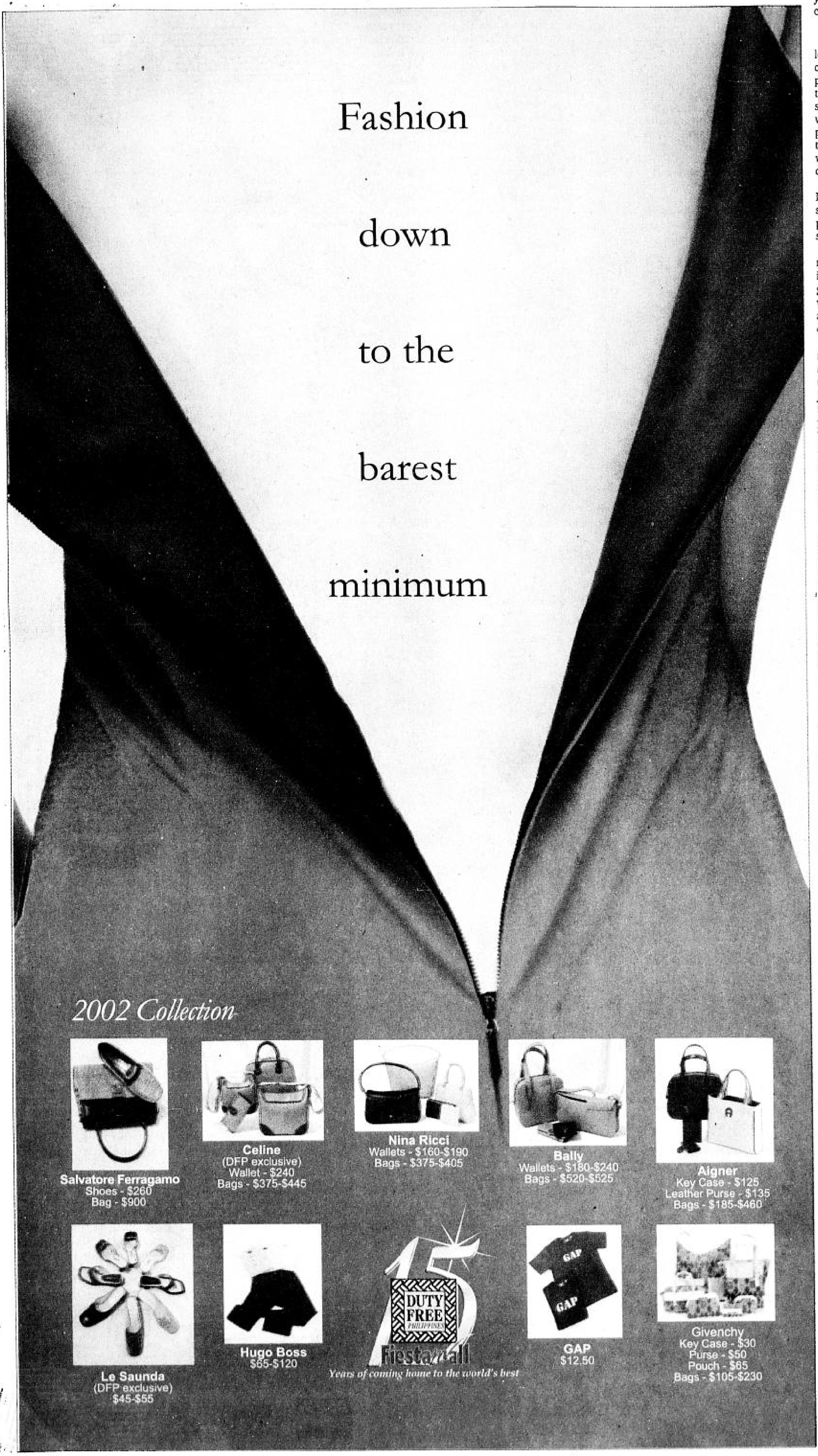
In hopes of getting the juices flowing, fellows took part in interesting creativity exercises. In a creativity workshop that had the participants renaming themselves as objects, the fellows were asked to introduce themselves to the group. Disturbingly whimsical was one writer's response, "I'm Chongky, people smoke me," referring to the slang term for marijuana. The exercise went on with fellows writing an obituary for their chosen alter ego.

Articles and photographs from the INQUIRER, MTV Ink and Candy Magazine were used as springboards for free writing exercises, found-poetry, free-associative writing and improvisations.

"Slam and Jam," a poetry reading session reminiscent of angst-driven literary gatherings in Intramuros' nightspots, also had the group improvising on pieces from creativity workshops. Four days of poetry, critiquing and lectures had a profound effect on the campers.

"I like the fact that the camp touched both my left and right brain. It helped my writing, and taught me how to be my own harsh critic," said Arumpac, an incoming senior majoring in creative writing. "The most important idea emphasized to me was just because you like something doesn't mean it's good. This is a very general idea, but to me it referred to literary pieces. The workshops that focused on our pieces were very straight to the point and didn't spare any comment. So even though we generally liked a certain piece, that does not mean it would be deemed a good piece."

The camp is the culmination of "Teens Read, Too!," a yearlong reading campaign sponsored by Adarna House, Candy Magazine, MTV Ink, the INQUIRER and Ayala Foundation Inc.'s Filipinas Heritage Library. Teen Read Camp was also supported by the Ateneo Literary Arts and Practices, De La Salle University's Bienvenido N. Santos Creative Writing Center, the Likhaan: UP Creative Writing Center and the UST Center for Creative Writing and Studies.



Summer courses for young chefs

THE CENTER for Culinary Arts, Manila opens its classrooms and kitchens to kids this summer.

The Junior Chef and Young Culinary Experts courses run on May 3, 4, 10 and 11, 8 a.m.-12 nn.

The Junior Chefs course is open to children aged 9-12 years old. Participants will be introduced to basic cooking skills. Easy-to-do recipes will encourage them to make their own dishes.

The Young Culinary Experts course is for those aged 13-18 years old. The course covers simple dishes that youngsters can try at home. It will also provide teenagers a chance to discover the joy of being in command of the kitchen and will test if they have what it takes to become a real chef someday.

Teenagers aged 13-18 years old can uncover their culinary talents in a four-day Young Culinary Masters course that explores more complex dishes. Participants will be introduced to cooking and preparing international cuisine with recipes from the East and West, including Japanese, Chinese, Spanish and Italian dishes.

The Young Culinary Masters will be held on May 17, 18, 24 and 25. As part of its Continuing Education Program, CCA also offers weekend courses on a variety of culinary subjects. Other upcoming courses are San Remo Pasta Masterclass, Summer Grilling with Kikkoman, Authentic Chinese Cuisine by Lee Kum Kee, Fundamentals of Professional Cooking and Fundamentals of Professional Baking.

Call CCA Manila at 426-4841/4835 or visit cca-manila.com.

Did you know that . . .

By the time a Filipino child graduates from high school, he would have spent more hours in front of the TV set than inside a classroom?

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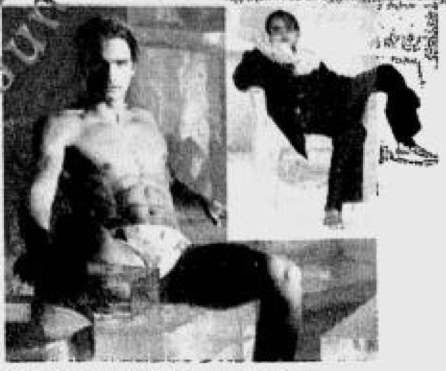
ABSOLUT VERSACE.

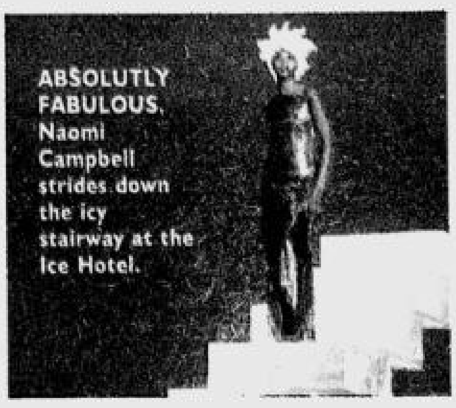
Welcome to ice age

Text and photos by Tim Yap

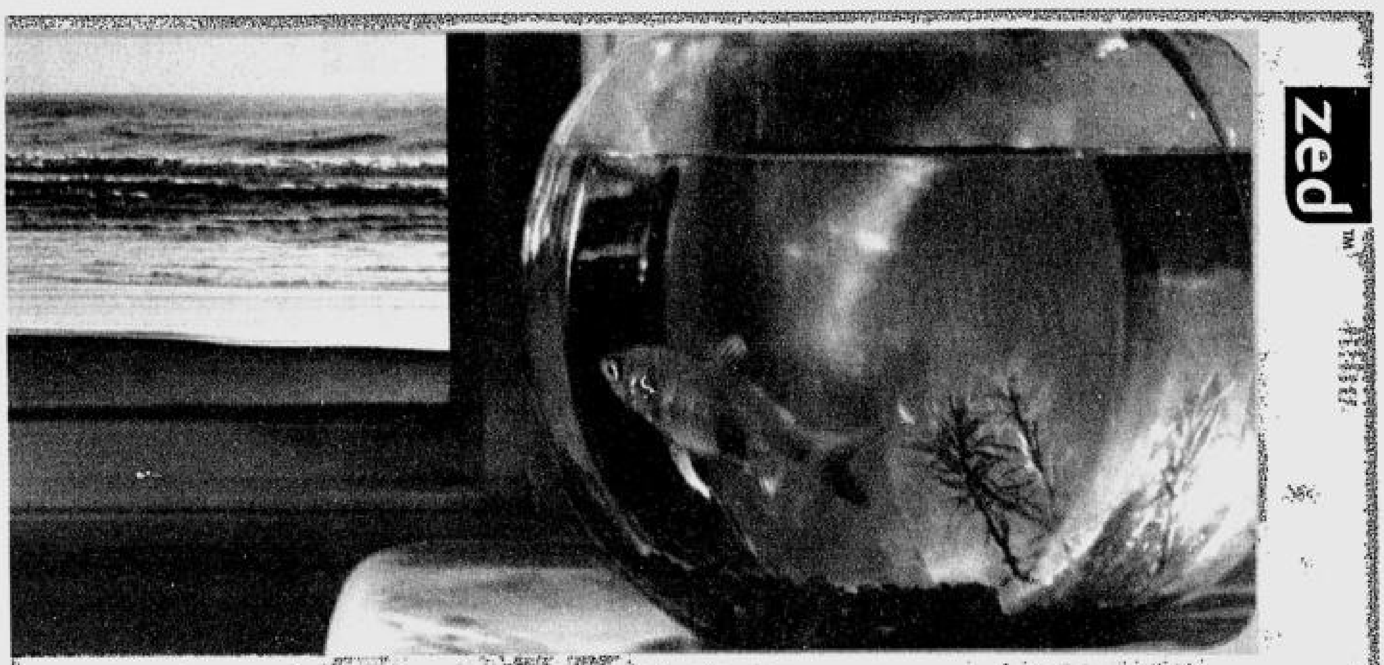
THE PHOTOS you see on this page and the next are from the very controversial Absolut Versace ad, which came out as a special section in Vogue magazine, shot by Herb Ritts at the Ice Hotel some years back. It sparked a lot of media attention and was constantly featured in fashion publications and news programs around the world. Yaparazzi, Absolut reps and other friends from the media went to this fusion of art, design and technology to chill out in this iridescent igloo.

WELCOME/ P.F6


YAPARAZZI imitating Marcus Schenkenberg's Absolut Versace pose


ABSOLUTLY FABULOUS. Naomi Campbell strides down the icy stairway at the Ice Hotel.

ABSOLUT WAIF. Kate Moss, icy icon at the Absolut ice bar



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LOGO LOVESHOUT 7
LOGO PEACEMAKER 8
LOGO PUPPY3 9
LOGO STRIPESLUV 10

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Like A Rose	A1	TONE LIKEAROSE
One More Try	A1	TONE 1MORETRY
Thank You	A1	TONE THANKUA1
The Things We Never Did	A1	TONE THETHINGS
Tomorrow	A1	TONE TOMORROW

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1	Special Alert Tone	Zed	TONE SMS
2	Connecting To Internet	Zed	TONE MODEM
3	Be With You	Ricky Martin	TONE BWITHYOU
4	Smooth	Santana	TONE SMOOTHSAN
5	Love Is All Around	Wet Wet Wet	TONE FOURWED
6	Horny	Mousse T.	TONE HORNY
7	Lady Marmalade	Christina Aguilera	TONE MARMALADE
8	American Woman	Lenny Kravitz	TONE AMERICANWO
9	Incomplete	Cisqo	TONE INCOMPLETE
10	Michelle	Beatles	TONE MICHELLE

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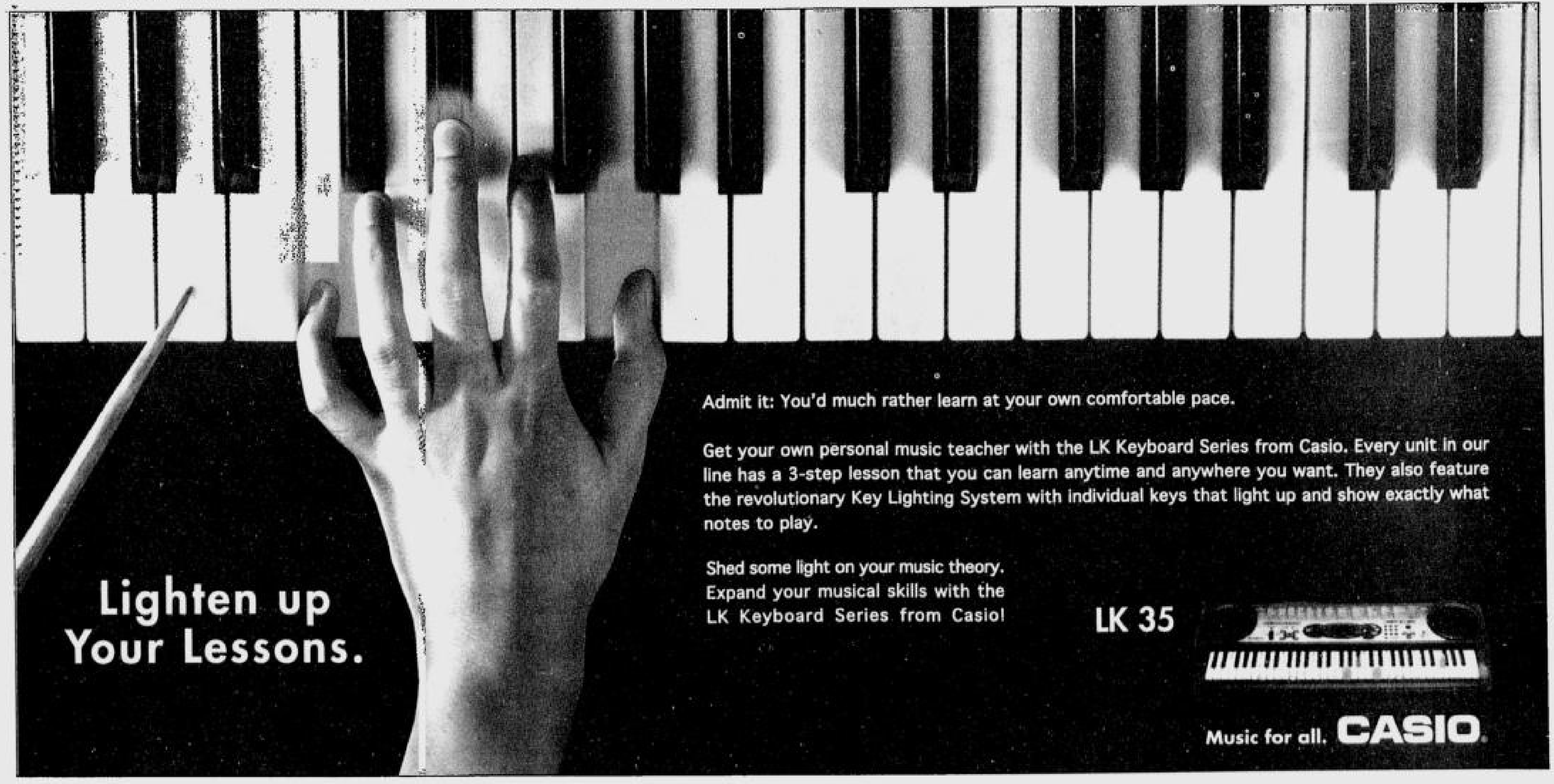

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Greyhoundz hits platinum

SUCCESS for hardcore Pinoy rock band.

HARDCORE Pinoy rock band Greyhoundz recently hit platinum with their phenomenal debut album, "7 Corners of Your Game" (Sony Music Phils.). On April 13, the band played a 45-minute set at the Glorietta Activity Center, kicking off "De-Lee-Rium," a fashion show-cum-dance party event, and celebrating Philippine Fashion Week. Models strutted Lee wear onstage while the band dished out songs from their two albums, opening with "Jack in Da Box." Afterward, the band members—vocalist Reg Rubio, bassist Niño Avenido, guitarists Audie Avenido and Allan Cudal, and drummer TJ Brillantes—were each presented with plaques by Roslyn Reyes of Sony Music and Epoy Arcino of Lee Jeans.

Pinoy rock fans are currently enjoying the band's self-titled album, "Greyhoundz," a diverse fusion of the band's trademark rap-metal sound with ethnic, jazz and reggae influences. Their first single, "Your Puppet and Clown," is currently making radio airwaves while its video counterpart—with its eerily beautiful, gothic-inspired play—is testing television waters.

Cheryl Tiu

ICE sculpture sets the chillin' tone.

Cool shebang to remember

WHAT happens when you MYX the coolest mouthwash with the hottest DJ camps in the country? You'll have a hot and chillin' party!

Astring-o-sol turned up the heat recently at Wherelse? with Astring-o-sol "Ice Afire: Party to the Extreme." Icy barriers were broken and inhibitions forgotten as for the first time, the hottest and coolest DJs mixed on one turntable, under one roof, with one goal in mind - drive the crowd to a dancing frenzy.

The event was hosted by MYX's VJ Clara who ignited the evening as she introduced the relaxing downbeat tempos of Wherelse's Mon Maramba and Groovenation's Edge. As the night progressed, the Astring-o-sol girls (in fiery white and chillin' silver) gave out ready to use brand samples, so no matter how much beer everybody drank, they still had cool confident breath. Then to break the ice further, VJs Mitchi and Clara facilitated a couple of games to enthrall the audience. Like the ice-up-your-pants contest, where two couples were selected. The first pair who was able to push the ice cube from the pants' leg hole up, in the shortest time wins.

From downbeat tempos to house music, the crowd grooved to the funky tunes of Toti D and Cyril of Groove Nation and K8's Erwin Edralin. Then shifting gears to maximum as the crowd pumped up to the electrifying beats of progressive house of NBK's Manolet Dario, raising the temperature level to the extreme! As the party level reached its peak, came Don and Kischer of Kemistry, sustaining the energy with their drum and bass music till early morning.

The "Ice Afire Party" was truly a one hot shebang filled with the coolest people, fueled by the confidence that only Astring-o-sol can give.

HOTTEST VJs Michi and Clara of MYX

ALL SMILES. The "it" people from Astring-o-sol Ice at the "Ice Afire Party" (above and below)

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P197.80

CLOSET MAID
All Purpose Hang-up
Reg. Price: P289.75
P246.30
* hose not included
Available only in Robinsons Galleria/Robinsons Place Manila, Iloilo, Imus, Novaliches/Metropolis Star, Alabang/Waltermart Sta. Rosa/New Farmers Plaza

GREENFIELD
Extra Thick Garden Hose
- 1/2 in. x 50 ft. (1.27x1,524 cm)
Reg. Price: P368.75
P331.90
Not available in Center Mall, Baguio/Magic Star, Tarlac

DAIKEN
Garden Tools 10-pc. Set (#DGD-10)
Reg. Price: P1,188.00
P950.40
Not available in Waltermart Makati/Riverbanks Center, Marikina/Magic Star, Tarlac

BUFFALO
Bypass Loppers Shock w/ Foam Grip
Reg. Price: P1,149.75
P919.80
Not available in Center Mall, Baguio

BLACK & DECKER
Grass Shear Kit (VP 4000K)
Reg. Price: P3,389.75
P2,542.40

STANLEY
AccuScape Bypass Loppers
Reg. Price: P1,199.75
P1,079.80
Not available in Waltermart Dasmariñas & Sta. Rosa

LOTUS
Portable Hose Reel
Reg. Price: P1,215.00
P1,093.50
* hose not included
Not available in Robinsons Place Iloilo/LCC Central Mall, Naga/Starmall, Shaw/Magic Star, Tarlac/Waltermart Calamba, Carmona, Dasmariñas & Gen. Trias

MARINA
Fountain Set
- SPF 1000
- 28 watts
Reg. Price: P3,359.75
P3,023.80

HANDYCARE HOTLINE #'s : 633-6627 & 536-8028
Per DTI-NCR Permit No.1520. Series of 2002.

METRO MANILA : Robinsons Galleria • Robinsons Place Manila • Robinsons Place Novaliches • Waltermart Makati • Waltermart Violago • Alimall, Cubao • New Farmers Plaza, Cubao • Fairview Center Mall • Metropolis Star, Alabang • Riverbanks Center, Marikina • Starmall, Shaw
LUZON : Robinsons Place Imus • Robinsons Town Mall, Los Baños • Waltermart Calamba • Waltermart Carmona • Waltermart Dasmariñas • Waltermart General Trias • Waltermart Sta. Rosa • LCC Central Mall, Naga • LCC Complex, Legaspi • Center Mall, Baguio • Magic Star, Tarlac • Mega Center, The Mall, Cabanatuan •
VISAYAS/MINDANAO : Robinsons Place Cebu • Robinsons Place Bacolod • Robinsons Place Iloilo • Marymart Center, Iloilo • Gaisano City, Roxas • Gaisano Mall, Davao • Limketkai Center, Cagayan de Oro

Breaking the news of failed marks to one's parents

Carlos Garchitorena
& September Mabino

SEP and Caloy,

It's the first time I've failed in a subject, and I'm scared of how my parents will react. They've been asking me about my grades and I'm running out of excuses in not showing them my report card. Can you suggest a way that I can break the horrible news to my parents without making them terribly angry or making them disown me?

8701

No matter how you tell them about your grades, your parents would still be disappointed, even angry, with you. Acting extra nice to them prior to revealing your grades wouldn't really be useful because the way I see it, school marks are a serious matter in your family. A failed mark is a failed mark, and I don't think you can work or act nice your way around that.

You can, however, use proper timing to your advantage, if only to ensure your parents would not fly off the handle in anger or do something drastic—such as disown you—upon first hearing about your grades.

Observe the time of day when they seem to be most relaxed and approach them. Be honest and straightforward with what you have to tell them, including the reasons you failed the subject. How you would actually open up the conversation, though, depends on you and your knowledge of your parents. I'm sure it wouldn't go too bad. At least, I hope so.

Don't put off talking to them for too long because the suspense would only build up. Good luck.

SEP

Being a prisoner of your own fear is not fun during summertime. In freshman year in high school, I flunked three quarters of math, getting 69, 71 and 73, and needing an 85 to pass. In the fourth quarter, I put my nose to the grindstone, passing math with a 77. Unfortunately, I flunked every other subject that quarter, some grades hitting below 70.

I remember clearly the afternoon when our class president called me up and told me he didn't see my name in the roster of students that had advanced to second year (class prez's, take note). In about 30 minutes I went up to my parents' room and proclaimed (with the air of Dick Clark or maybe a Johnny Carson), "I have some good news and I have some bad news." The good news was I didn't have to take summer class. The bad news... Well, you can figure it out as well as the looks of disappointment, the whats, the hows, whys and their own answers to those questions and so on.

I've been a freshman four times in my life since.

To be the devil's advocate, school isn't everything. To be realistic, one failing grade is nothing, even in the scope of one year of your life, thanks to summer class. I can see countless other flunkies, not only with regard to school, but also in life, and I can tell you in all my grand modesty, this is small stuff... Not to be sweated, in the parlance of our times.

One thing that failure will teach you—and, of course, this is best learned earliest in life—is that you must move on, often completely turning your back on failure. But in all cases, move on. Hiding from reality is ridiculous unless you have a fix-it scheme, like taking time off from Counter-Strike to learn computer hacking. The only way to walk unburdened by excess baggage is by, well, unburdening yourself of excess baggage.

You can cry about it on their laps; you can take it like a soldier; you can be adamant and uncaring, and in the end, nothing will change the fact that you flunked. If I had a time machine, I wonder if I would have ever used it. I really think that the reason people say they wouldn't change a thing in their lives is that they actually cannot.

CALOY

E-mail the authors at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

'Miracle' products offer solution to toughest problems

By Bunny Anne Gapit
2bU! Correspondent

It is easy to mistake infomercials for Mexican telenovelas with the movement of the characters' lips often failing to synchronize with dialogues

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Necessity is the mother of invention, so they say. If that's the case, some of the following products of ingenuity are illegitimate children or *putok sa buho*.

Here are some advertised products that seem to be more in need of a legitimate reason for their existence.

Cyclone Crosstrainer and Abtronic

Cyclone Crosstrainer is supposed to be a breakthrough in fitness technology, combining four workout machines (treadmill, stair climber, stationary bike, plus handles for upper body workout) into just one product. It supposedly can burn calories up to five times more than a treadmill for total body workout.

The Abtronic, on the other hand, is supposed to eliminate the need to do sit-ups and crunches that compromise your spinal cords. The product promises to tone and firm up the abs, and to remove cellulites in the arms, chest and thighs without the user breaking into a sweat. With all the things Abtronic promises, there seems to be no need for other ab products, machines and exercise videos. Ten minutes with Abtronic, or so it claims, is equivalent to 600 sit-ups.

Bolymei and Magic Up Breast Enhancers

Normally Taiwan-made and dubbed in English, it is easy to mistake Metro TV infomercials for Mexican telenovelas with the movement of the characters' lips often failing to synchronize with dialogues. Both ads feature inflated human mammary glands whose owners seem to be quite pleased with themselves.

The Bolymei people are shown on the move, randomly calling women in their quest for A-cupped little miseries. The chosen ones, after a month of using Bolymei capsules, claim to have increased their bust size by two inches, which is attributed to avocado enzymes that unblock the mammary glands for better absorption of fats and lipids.

Professing satisfaction, too, are those who tried Magic Up shaping gel, which promises to give a lift to all types of sagging breasts. And while Bolymei achieved the two-inch increase in bust size in a month, Magic Up claims to be able to accomplish the same feat in only 10 short days.

EasyMay Slimming Capsules and Superslim Tablets

For those who think being slim guarantees happiness, here are products that promise to take the plump and overweight to Nirvana. Moshi Li, a Taiwanese Ivy Violan lookalike in a short shag, is EasyMay's actress-endorser, advising consumers to look for her signature as guarantee of product authenticity.

The package consists of 60 capsules plus 36 sachets of Royal/Charming Tea, a slimming beverage.

Superslim tablets supposedly allow you to maintain your diet since it speeds up the burning of fat. One woman declares she lost 8 kg in just a week, while another says she lost 12 kg in two weeks.

Zenith Grow and Over the Top 200 Patches

A funny skit Zenith uses to highlight the misfortunes of the vertically challenged revolves around a midget man beleaguered by taller peers and rejected by the willowy lass he admires. Zenith Grow claims to increase your height by as much as 15 cm in just three months.

The Over the Top ad also uses the before-and-after technique, but shows only the upper bodies of participants in before-use-of-the-product scenes, which makes you wonder.

Maydan Gel and Dainty Design

These two products claim to clear up faces of acne and similar skin problems that seem to defy solution. Maydan, a scar remover and DNA cell reviving preparation, is supposed to be useful for all kinds of scars.

The infomercial for Dainty Design or Acne Eraser features interviews with strangers who all agree to an experiment without reservation.

THE NEED FOR A VIBRANT CLUB SCENE

By Adrian Cuenca

A few days ago, I heard a club anthem on a commercial radio station located somewhere on the left of the dial. If you've been to a dance club recently, you have heard the screams whenever "Rapture" by Iio was played. But the question is why only now is it played on radio? The track stormed the UK Pop charts last December. The track was locally released last November by Universal Records both as a single and in an album (included in the Paul Van Dyk mix compilation "Politics of Dancing"). It took five months for commercial radio to catch on this very popular track.

Let's rewind a few months back, there was a track that debuted at number 1 on the UK Pop singles charts. The track was "Another Chance" by DJ and producer Roger Sanchez. The track directly sampled from the chorus of another track, "I Won't Hold You Back", a ballad by Toto. Knowing how Filipinos never forget ballads, the track will be familiar to most of those in their mid twenties to the thirty-somethings. Historically, Filipinos just love to add dance beats to their favorite ballads. More so, the track has a riff just as catchy as Daft Punk's "One More Time", another house track to cross over to the mainstream. So why didn't the local record company (Sony Music) promote the track to radio stations? In fact, Sony Music just released a few copies of the album in the market. Why didn't radio even catch on to this enormously high potential selling track? It's not even a question of taking a risk in their programming because the track is highly commercial. There are many other club tracks which local record companies and radio didn't bother promoting like "Joyrise" or "Everytime" which were hugely popular among the youth but radio and record companies didn't even bother riding on the potential sales of these tracks.

The scene's potential

Recent surveys have shown that radio is losing listeners. More and more people are losing interest in radio, but it is very obvious that much of the youth shy away from radio because it is not playing the music that they want to hear. This writer for example, is a huge music fan but radio just doesn't fill my music needs (except for weekly shows like Groove Nation's "Stealth Beats" and Music One's "The Chillout Project). Those thousands of people that flocked to the Paul Van Dyk party last November and the Chicane concert last March would definitely want to hear more dance music on radio. Radio, for some reason, plays very little of it. We now hear advertisements in radio stations urging advertisers to start pouring advertising money in radio again. Maybe if radio started doing it's research and started playing the music the youth is currently listening to which is definitely house, techno, trance, etc, then they would get more listeners, then the ratings will go up and advertisers will start advertising.

There is a need to stress the enormous potential of the local club scene because the benefits and effects are just as enormous. Last November, there were more than 3,000 people who attended the live DJ set of Paul Van Dyk. Yes, 3,000 people! Last March, during the Chicane concert, there were even more than 4,000 people! Thousands of people paying hundreds of pesos to attend these events. The attendance of these events is even comparable to those free rock concerts thrown by the NU Rock awards or by Pulp magazine. And these are paying customers! Doesn't it make much more sense for advertisers and marketing people to start marketing their products to this market? It makes so much sense for radio to start playing this music and catering their programming to this market. Imagine if this market is developed and increased.

Levi's®
What is your RED TAB?
501®
button fly

The numbers don't lie. This writer used to work for Tower Records. The inventory in the Makati store is separated by several genres of music like Pop/Rock, Jazz, R&B/Hip-hop, etc. The dance section would occupy six percent of the total inventory but on a good month, the sales would double, as it would contribute twelve percent to sales. Dance music outsells R&B and R&B still gets much more radio airplay than dance. Compilations from the Ministry of Sound, Cream and Gatecrasher and even the less commercial Global Underground and albums by artists such as Basement Jaxx, Paul Van Dyk and Groove Armada would enter the bestseller charts in the store. These albums hardly get any airplay on radio or written about in the local media but they still sell. Any dance album put on a listening station or played in the loudspeakers in the store will sell out. Customers will buy it without knowing who the artists are or what the tracks are, they will buy it because it sounds good to them or because it's the music they hear in the dance clubs. People are very hungry for dance music and radio is not feeding their hunger.

Youth alternative

Another reason why club music and the club scene should be promoted is to give the Filipino youth an alternative entertainment aside from show bands and rock bands. It is getting sickening watching a show band perform "YMCA" or "Celebration" for the millionth time? Development in the entertainment industry is synonymous to modernization in society. Ten years from now, will we be still hearing a show band sing "YMCA" while other countries have gone beyond that by offering a drum & bass club?

Now, let us imagine that radio and the local media do promote the club scene. Let us imagine that the market for club music has grown much bigger as a result of the promotion accompanied by our continuing economic growth. The first thing that will happen is that the DJs will be more popular and then enjoy a little celebrity status. As this writer has witnessed, some of our local DJs can compete worldwide. Then, every kid in the street will want to become a DJ (In the UK the past two years, turntables outsold guitars). The demand for records and hardware will increase which will mean more record stores opening. The local recording industry will expand their market by releasing more dance music. There will also be more business opportunities for people selling hardware, from turntables to computers and music equipment where the DJ can start creating their own music. As the DJs move to the next step by making their own music, then, the recording companies can start releasing their music thus giving the record company more business.

For tourism purposes

Secondly, more clubs will open. There will be more opportunities for businessmen to venture into the club/bar scene. More clubs would mean more job opportunities for waiters, bartenders, cooks, DJs, technicians, etc. More clubs would mean more sales for alcohol and cigarette companies. The businesses of supplying music equipment for clubs will also expand. The events and promotions business will expand too, thus creating more alternative ways for marketing people and advertisers to market their products.

Thirdly, a vibrant club scene would also mean an expanded market for clothes manufacturers. More club wear out in the market would mean more opportunities for young fashion designers.

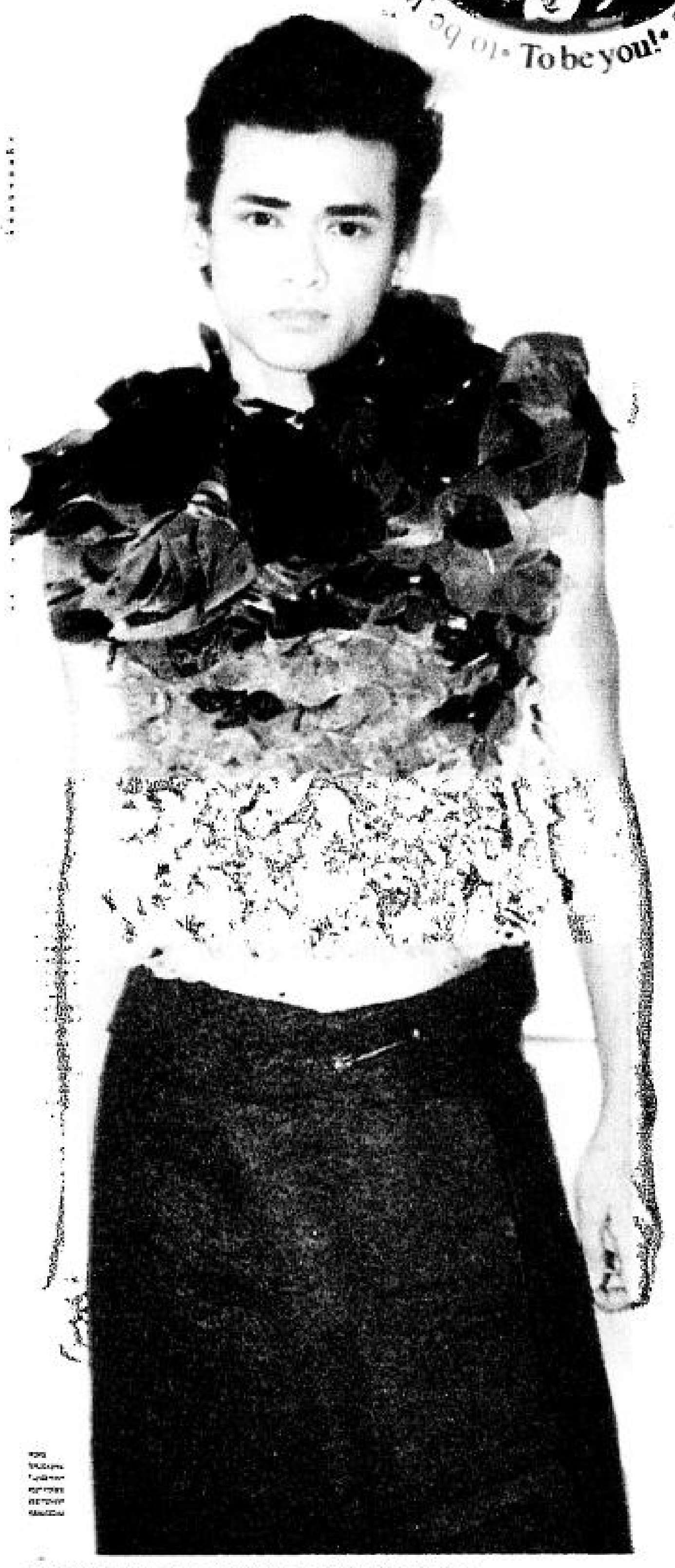
Fourthly, since the Philippines is relatively cheaper than Singapore and Hong Kong, more tourists would flock to the country for it's vibrant club scene (which is already happening in Thailand where the famed Ministry of Sound just opened a club). If Boracay can somehow be a little like Ibiza (just a little, we do not want to spoil the island) where thousands of European tourists visit every summer, then the country can attract more tourists and the tourism industry will grow. If the tourism industry grows, then it will mean more business for airlines, travel agents, hotels and resorts.

Behind all of these developments will mean more entrepreneurs coming out and doing business. There will be more club owners, more promoters, independent record companies, fashion designers who will open up their own stores, and more magazines. More entrepreneurs would give the economy the needed push it badly needs. The bottom line is that there will be more entertainment, more money, more satisfaction, dreams and success being achieved which equals more happiness and a higher aura in a society besieged with political and social problems. It has already been proven in the UK and even in Asian cities like Singapore and Bangkok that a vibrant dance scene can become a booming industry.

What are we waiting for? Club promoters have been working very hard organizing parties, promoting the scene and flying in big name DJs from abroad. But it is still not enough. Information and awareness of the scene should be spread further. This writer tried a few years ago by contributing articles and reviews about the scene in Pulp magazine, but the magazine had a bias towards rock music and many of my contributions did not see the light of day. The music should reach the grassroots level and the only way for that to happen is for radio to play the music. We desperately need a radio station that will play club and house music 24 hours a day and I believe this will be the start of something big. To radio programmers and radio station owners, you hold a key to open a whole new industry!

The author is a DJ and member of club promotions group NBK. Email the author at cuenca_adrian@hotmail.com.

Cell phone is now a tool and fashion accessory



FUNKY and edgy creation on Albert Adrales

By Michelle C. Pino
2bU! Correspondent

TECHNO gadgets like cell phones are no longer just practical tools to students, yuppies and most members of the Gen Y crowd. They have also become stylish fashion accessories. The young and trendy heavy users of mobile phones do not just want functional features but are also particular about designs.

With this in mind, Alcatel Philippines and swanky event promoter Guru Productions held a series of fashion shows in April to launch the smallest and lightest phone in the country, the Alcatel One Touch (OT) 511.

Tool and accessory

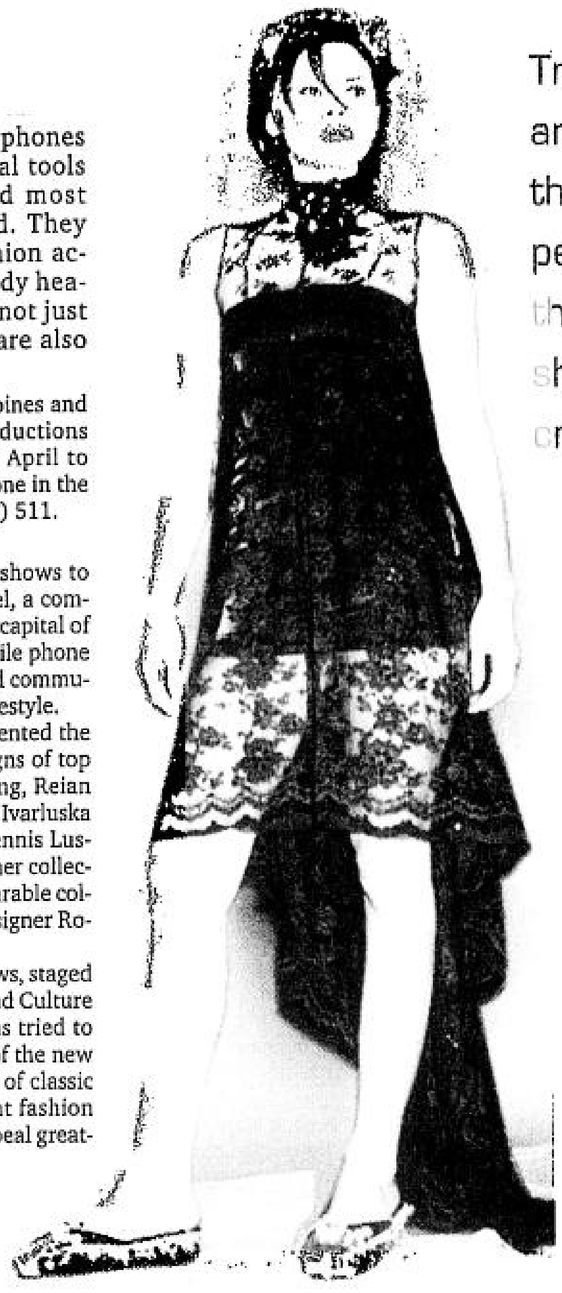
Why a series of red-hot fashion shows to launch a new mobile phone? Alcatel, a company originally based in the fashion capital of the world, France, believes the mobile phone is the ultimate fashion accessory and communication tool for today's complex lifestyle.

The ultra-light OT 511 complemented the colorful, hip and street-smart designs of top young designers Yvonne Quisumbing, Reian Mata, Joey Samson, Ricky Vicencio, Ivarluska Aseron, Mel Vergel de Dios and Dennis Lustico, as well as the glamorous summer collection of Gerry K. and the vibrant, wearable collection of award-winning young designer Ronald Mendoza.

In each of the mobile fashion shows, staged at Strumm's El Pueblo, Eastwood and Culture Club Libis, a fashion guru's designs tried to reflect the trend-setting character of the new Alcatel phone. Gerry K's collection of classic clothes unified the series' different fashion perspectives that were meant to appeal greatly to the young market.

New dimension

Of course, in the staging of "Mobile Fashion Party" by Alacatel-Guru, the main fashion accessory was the 75-g OT 511, the newest and lightest phone in the country, was a perfect match to the vibrant and light designs showcased in the series.



LACY lust fits Razelle Andersen.

Trendy, ultra-light and compact, the OT 511 lets people express themselves and showcase their creativity

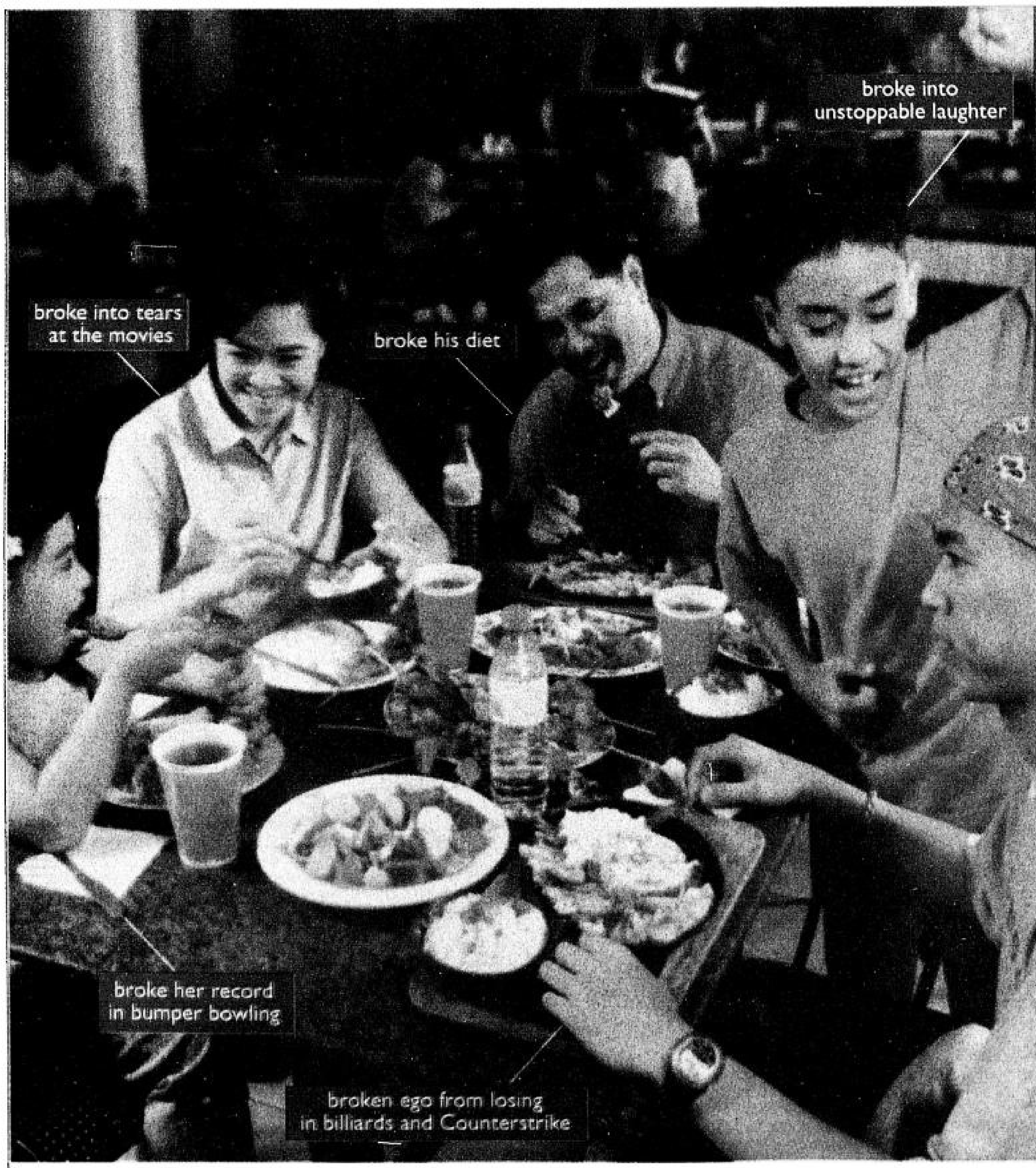
With OT 511, Alcatel also brings a new dimension to the familiar SMS (short messaging service). The phone introduces the EMS or enhanced messaging service feature allowing the user to send not just text messages but also graphics, smiley faces, fixed or animated icons and sounds all at the same time! Users of OT 511 never have to send a picture graphics, text message or a ring tone separately again.

Other features

The OT 511 has other features that make it convenient to use even for heavy users. The Zoom function shifts the phone's large graphic display from a four-liner to a six-liner and vice versa eliminating complaints about barely readable, teeny-weeny texts. The display is enhanced by the new, improved green backlight.

Alcatel is also quite generous with the entertainment specifications of the OT 511. Users can record or create their own melodies and choose from 30 polyphonic melodies, ranging from buzzer to digitized sounds. The user can also use his/her own voice as ring tone by recording it in the voice memo feature and converting it to melody. The ultra-personalized ring tone can be a pet dog barking, a mother screaming, or a baby wailing turned into a melody.

OT 511 features three exciting games in the phone developed like PC games. Complete with polyphonic sounds, the games can keep any user busy for hours.



broke into unstoppable laughter
broke into tears at the movies
broke his diet
broke her record in bumper bowling
broken ego from losing in billiards and Counterstrike

THE TOWN MEDLEY

May 1, 2002
A fun-filled event for the family

10am -10pm Mallwide Labor Day Sale
11am Dog Show (Theater Drive)
2pm X-Games (Theater Drive)
3pm Hot Shot Competition (Efren's Magic at the Cinema Complex) Network Gaming Competition (Netopia at the Cinema Complex)
7:30pm Live Entertainment featuring Mulatto and Pido with Take One (Theater Drive)

Whole Day:
•Outdoor Barbecue
•Vintage Cars and Bikers' Club Display (Parking area beside Outback)
•Food, Henna Tattoo & Face Painting Booths

It all happens here.

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

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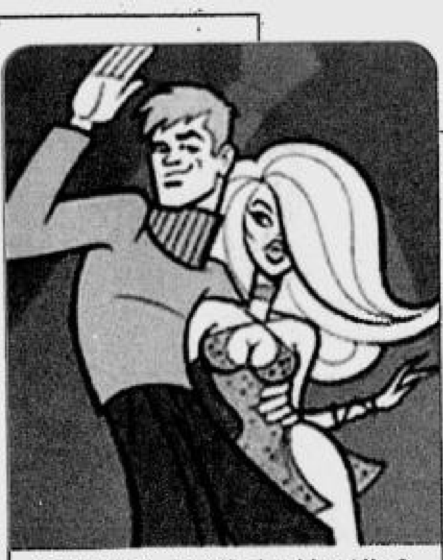
MORE RESTAURANTS NOW AT THE TOWN: Max's Restaurant • Gloria Maris • Outback FOOD CHOICES AT THE THIRD LEVEL: Big Red Hen • Kimchi • Little Saigon • Cocina La Paella • Mongolian Grill Chin's Empress • Inihaw Express • Sizzling Seafoods • Japs • Five Spices • Gourmet Grill • Ilonggo Grill • Shakey's • Bali Blue • Red Ginger • Cinnabon • Egg Tart Factory • Rice Mix • Fruit Magic • West Lake • Miggy's Super Tacos • Hotdog on a Stick • House of Silvanas • Cobblers & Splits • Hizon's Cakes & Pastries AT THE CINEMA COMPLEX: Pancake House • Pizza Hut • Auntie Anne's • Ko-Bachi • Buddies • Cheesecake, Etc. Mann Hann • Gerry's Grill • Dusit Thani • Padi's Point • North Park • Jollibee • Shakey's • Red Ribbon • Coffee Experience • Chicken Bacolod • Taters

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 140, Series of 2002.

Barometer of trends

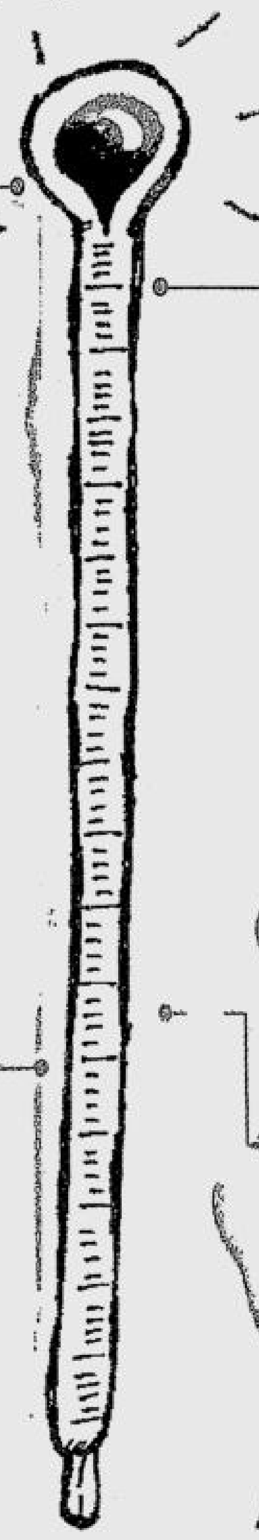
APPLE CIDER VINEGAR. Studies show that it aids in burning unwanted fat.

MOTOROLA'S V100. It looks like a candy-colored oversized pager. More like a toy, actually. This little gizmo will have you gushing, "*Ang* cute!" But it goes beyond that—the V100 is user-friendly. One night of practice and you're set for life. The message capacity is nothing to sneeze at—we've had a record of over 60 messages stored. The games will keep you occupied, and texting with the QWERTY keyboard is a breeze (if you have small fingers, that is).



SPY GROOVE. Agent No. 1 and Agent No. 2 may be cartoons, but they're definitely cute (and okay, hot). Think Johnny Bravo with James Bond's brains and style. And watch out for those girls with super long legs and those evil villains that are actually quite endearing. Last week, our agents stumbled on the case of two genetically enhanced evil butterflies out to be used by a biologist and French nobleman for their world domination fantasies.

"SPIDER-MAN" THE MOVIE. The trailer looks good, Kirsten Dunst looks gorgeous and Toby Maguire looks… well, really like Spider-Man. But as Peter Parker, he kinda reminds us of Mr. Bean.



CHER, err, okay, she's pretty and she does seem to have the brains, but Cher Calvin can be quite irritating on "News Central's" early primecast. She keeps stammering over simple words and, yes, even her own name. Perhaps Mari Kaimo's own stuttering can be quite contagious.

ONE-PIECE bathing suits or maillots. Finally, the perfect way to hide your flab.

DISSOLUTION of the four apocalypse. We were practically jumping for joy when four evil plotters of the reality show, "Survivor 4," were targeted by the remaining survivors. John, Zoe, Robert and Tammy thought they almost had the game… No! Good thing that coconut challenge knocked some sense into Neleh and Paschal's head and decided to join forces with Kathy, Sean and Vecepia to vote out the first two members of the jury—John and Zoe.

LISA "Lefteye" Lopes. The untimely demise of yet another R&B artist has left countless fans and loved ones grieving.

RICHARD Gomez on "S-Files." What's up? Talk about questionable career moves.

Seeing tomorrow with Asia's young leaders

Leslie Ann Tan
2bu! Correspondent

In a world of uncertainty with its many twists and turns, charting Asia's roadmap seems impossible. Come July 29, 24 student-leaders from six Asian countries will gather to do just that.

In a media briefing last March 20 at the Makati Shangri-la Hotel, Hitachi finally launched the 5th Hitachi Young Leaders' Initiative (HYLI) to be held on July 29 to August 2 at Singapore. The weeklong Initiative comprises of a two-day Forum, closed-door student workshops, community work, and participation activities.

Forums would be highlighted by keynote speeches and panel discussions of high-caliber government officials, business leaders, and civil society. The students and approximately 300 members of the audience will be asked to participate, making way for lively and dynamic sessions.

HYLI's beginnings

The HYLI was established by Hitachi in November 1996. It aims to contribute towards the development of young potential Asian leaders by providing a platform for bright university students, selected from Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Japan and the Philippines, to air their views and exchange ideas.

Regional Cohesion

The 5th HYLI promises to live up to these goals. This year, it will bring together the 24 elite students and regional opinion leaders to discuss issues under the theme 'Asia's Roadmap Forging Regional Cohesion for Global Advancement'. This calls for a close look at the bridges that Asia needs to cross in order to forge alliances to help bolster Asian growth.

"Asia has come a long way to what it is today. It has yet more roads to travel, and our future leaders will be entrusted to map these roads" said Mr. Nobuaki Furuse, General Manager of Hitachi Asia Ltd., Philippine Branch.

"By providing a platform for these young leaders to debate, discuss and exchange ideas on regional and global issues with the leaders of today, we hope to broaden their outlook on the roles they will take one day in society. The Initiative also serves to promote a sense of Asian values and an understanding of different cultures. We hope that the students representing their countries will use this platform to broaden their perspectives to benefit the road ahead for Asia."

Three sub-themes will support the discussions. They are 'Cultivating Entrepreneurial Spirit in Asia'; 'The Growing Importance of Corporate Social Responsibility in Asia'; and 'The Changing Role of Media in Asia'.

The Philippine Team

"The four students selected by the Philippine Selection Panel had to go through a rigorous selection process which included university select–ion,submiss–ion of written essays and a panel interview. These are bright, intelligent and articulate young men and women, well informed on current issues," said

Hon. Antonio Eduardo Na–chura, Representative of the 2nd District Western Samar, and Chairperson of the Philippine Selection Panel.

The four selected students are:

***William Panlilio**, Master of Arts in Philosophy, AdMU*

William plans to become a lawyer or work in the legislative branch of government.

He intends to pursue higher learning by taking up International Law or Political Science. As the Philippines' top-ranked debater, William promises to go to Singapore and treat the other delegates not as competitors, but as colleagues to learn from.

***Dominic Pascasio**, AB Economics & BS Business Management, DLSU*

Nico has his sights set on someday being a world-renowned economist or a top decision-maker in one of the country's multinational firms. Willing to do anything within a value-structure to achieve his goals, Ni–co hopes that his firm grasp of issues and conceptual frameworks can help the group find some plausible solutions to Asian problems.

***Leslie Ann Tan**, BS Business Economics, UP Diliman*

Leslie's career goal is to work in a prestigious consulting firm. She envisions helping companies not only become financially stable and profitable but also realize its commitment to society through the practice of corporate social responsibility.

***Marie Grace Veracruz**, BS Business Economics, UP Diliman*

Grace looks forward to working in an international organization such as the United Nations or to being an executive in a multinational corporation.

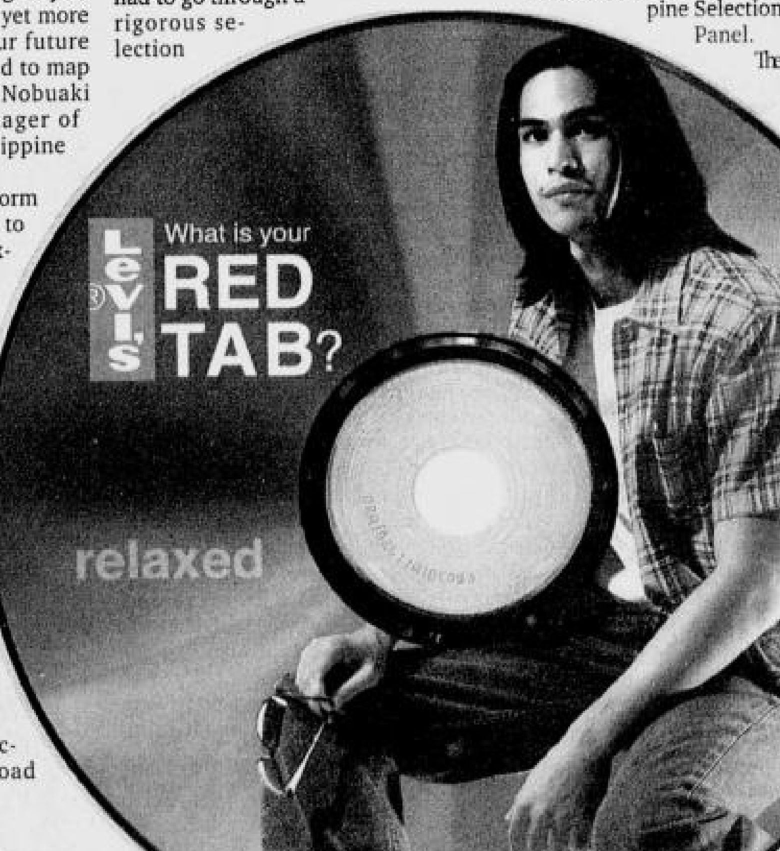
Her long-term goal though is to build a school for gifted children from less-fortunate families. As a delegate of the Junior Team Philippines to Canada last year, Grace will surely bring her experience and charm to Singapore.

On a personal note

On a more personal note, I cannot help but be doubly excited for the upcoming Initiative.

With the unique opportunity to be with the three other delegates in a more informal and interactive way, I have seen how much diversity there is among us, and yet there is much camaraderie and learning as well. What more if you have 24 such student-leaders? I know that when we go to HYLI, we will not have all the answers. But we will have things to say. If we put all our energies, all our ideas together each can contribute a piece to the puzzle that is Asia.

At the end of the week, perhaps we can present a roadmap, no matter how hazy, to the international community; and somehow help chart Asia's progress.



Follow San Miguel's 'Sarap to Sundown' Summer 2002 party trail from Manila to Mindanao

AS April steps out and the merry month of May comes in, SMB lines up another serving of the colest events in the hottest happening places everywhere! On May 3, watch out as SMB parties at Sarabia Manor in Iloilo. Weekend fun gets even more and more exciting as the San Miguel Beer "Sarap to Sundown" Summer 2002 banner flies high in Tropical Summer in Cebu. It also goes to White Rock in Olongapo, to be followed by the Insular Hotel in Davao via their own version of the "SMB Summer Party" at the Havana Waterfest in Malate—all happening on May 4.

On May 10, watch out as SMB invades Entertainment Depot in Bacolod. The "SMB Summer Fiesta" then joins the merry making of the "Pahiyas Festival" in Lucban and the "Mayohan" in Tayabas from May 11 up to 15. Get ready for hearty doses of San Miguel Beer and loads of fun in Picnic Grove, Tagaytay on May 11.

Mark your calendars on the 15th as well as for the Santa–cruzan in Dumaguete.

Another exhilarating weekend awaits beer, music and fun lovers as the "Sarap to Sundown" banner flies high over Duka Bay in Cagayan De Oro and in Mata–bunkay beach in Batangas both on May 18. SMB joins the festivities in "Viva Vigan" on May 19.

Back at the metro, there's a great SMB Summer Party at Eastwood City, Libis on May 24. Those in Balanghai, Butuan City will experience the one-of-a-kind "SMB Summer Fiesta" from May 24 to 26, while beach bums will have the time of their life partying no end at the Cebu Beach Club, Cebu on May 25.

SMB's toast to summer 2002 continues with an array of Summer Fiesta and fun activities including "Pasayahan sa Lucena" in Quezon from may 27 to 30, the "Kaogma" in Naga from May 28 to 30 and the "Magayon" in Legaspi for the whole month of May.

Be sure to mark these dates on your summer calendar and don't miss out on the whole San Miguel "Sarap to Sundown" 2002 parties! Log on to smbsaraptosun–down.pinoycentral.com for more updates.

L'Oreal's pastel paradise

Top haircolor L'Oreal Professionel puts a new spin on its Summer 2002 forecast—going beyond the usual palette predictions and taking a pulse of what is expected to make women happy and content. The looks were on show at the recent Philippine Fashion Week at the Glorietta.

'Pastel Paradise' is the theme of this season's hair color collection from L'Oreal Professionnela—deliberate attempt to put women not just in touch with fashion but also with their feelings.

Pursuits that nourish the spirit—from vacations by the sea to gardening and cooking—are expected to take center stage. The colors and moods that represent fulfillment, pleasure, laughter, and downright exhilaration were therefore key—sun-kissed golds, upbeat rich-browns, and the richness of candy, seashells and fruit were therefore all part of the summer color collection. A return to the innocence of childhood—represented by reminiscences on birthday cakes and jellybeans—is also key.

Three major trends are forecast by the L'Oreal Professionel's Paris-based experts—flowers, seascapes and the days of sugar & spice.

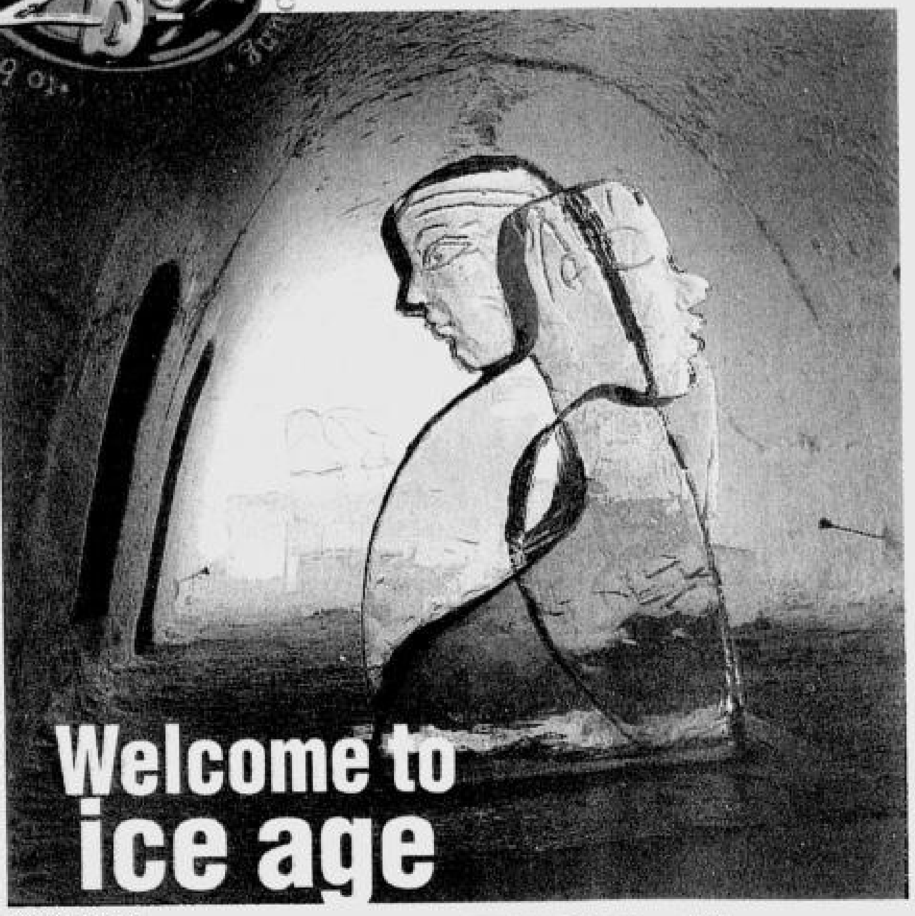
MY Absolut groupies posing and shopping in Stockholm, Sweden

CHIQUITITA FOREVAH! The Absolut diva jets off.

CUBIC CHICK. Premier's most preeminent personality Chiqui Torres-Tan savors her Absolut surprise

FROZEN DELIGHT. Roe, fish with Absolut vodka, red beet, chopped onions and sour cream

DESSERT DELUXE. Brumble berry sherbet with pistachio cream



Welcome to ice age

From page F1

"It's so hot here in Manila I'm literally melting," whined my friend as he sent me a hot, hot text message on my cell. I looked around—I was surrounded by "snice"—snow and ice hosed down with water and then hardened. "It's nice! Get it?" I thought as I walked around in winter gear. And why not? I was inside the Ice Hotel, past the Artic Circle in Jukkasjarvi, 19 km from the airport of Kiruna, north of Sweden, where we took a flight from Stockholm, the home of Absolut vodka.

"It's negative five degrees Celsius outside," said our guide Kerstin Nilsson as she showed us to our individually ice-sculpted suites. The Ice Hotel started 11 years ago as a 50-sq-m igloo. These days, it's a design dream of silver, blue and white, with 15 suites and 52 rooms. This giant block of 30,000 cubic feet of ice sculpture appears each year every mid-December, and melts at the end of April.

Think Ice Man and Dr. Freeze meets Donatella Versace's atelier in Antarctica—that's what the Ice Hotel looks like. Looking around, you'll see a grand chandelier made of ice, frozen water beds covered in reindeer skin and translucent thrones all over that will make you feel like gliding around like Aaliyah's Akasha in "Queen of the Damned." Only this time you're the Ice Queen in the valley of crystals.

THE ABSOLUT ICE BAR. With ice glasses of anything and everything Absolut, this makes for one cool chillout venue. Brrrr!

'Greased lightning'

Earlier, after alighting from the plane (aside from our KLM flights from Manila to Amsterdam), we were ushered by Micael Jernelof into our snow mobiles. We jet-skied across the white terrain of snow, snow and more snow. We crossed rivers of ice, frosted forests and chalky mountains of bleached land.

It was a speed trip as we headed toward the endless stream of white light, and my partner Chiqui Torres-Tan of Premier Wines and Spirits (local Absolut distributors who jointly sponsored our trip with the Absolut company) clenched her arms around my waist. We felt like Olivia Newton John and John Travolta on a bike, riding high on "Grease" fantasy.

Later, when we took a break (hey, it was 19 km, okay?), I requested to trade places with Premier Wines and Spirits president JP Santamaria, Absolut daddy of our trip, as I wanted to try driving to the sky on my own—speed freak, yes, I am. And fly I did! I felt like Santa Spidey with a thousand reindeers soaring in the skies.

Later I was brought back to earth, I mean, ice age, when I fell into the snow, head first with my ice vehicle following suit. Today's Pepper Teehankee with partner Tanya Lara of the Star were on "Kylie Minoque" mode, spinning around the ice, feeling like they were Tonya Harding's long-lost siblings. Both scenes straight from a soft-core episode of Studio 23's "Exposed." So much for my superhero fantasies.

The snow was deep all right, but it was soft. So soft that my compatriots Erich Edralin and Miko Valenzuela, the dynamic duo that mounts the Absolut events in Manila, would take that iced tea plunge right onto the malleable bed of white mashed ice. Absolut company's Linn Sandberg, who reminds me of former Miss Universe Dayanarra Torres (now Ms Marc Anthony) and blonde ambition Emma Kjellgren, trailed behind us tropical children as they laughed at our adventures and misadventures in the snow.

Lord of the mummy rings

After a light lunch of salmon soup, homemade blueberry cake and reindeer—a delicacy there, like what *lechon* is to us (gulp! sorry, Rudolph) at a midway cabin, we once again hopped onto our snowmobiles to head over to our "frozen" (yes, Madonna version) destination.

As soon as we got there, it was sheer amazement—never mind if my knees were shaking and Tim junior wanted to hide. It was "fight mode" through and through, fur and all. Arne Bergh, ice designer, toured us around Ice heaven—a sculpture gallery, endless hotel rooms and grand-themed suites (Egyptian, Buddhist, Viking, even a chapel!).

But more than anything, what I was excited to see and experience was the world famous Absolut Ice bar. Yes, they served us lingon berry (Sweden's version of grape) juice or tea spiked with Absolut kurant—in ice glasses! Good thing the bartender wasn't made of ice.

The dinner before that, a few shots of Absolut Citron drove us into bubbly chatter—Pepper Teehankee did a head stand, Metro's Bebeth Timbol and my frequent travel mate burst into song, and Tanya brought out pictures of her dog. But the question for the night was—"How do we sleep?"

"If I don't wake up, just pinch my nose," said Chiqui as we savored the fab, fab Swedish fare, Arctic treats with Absolut on ice plates. We were to rest in our icy rooms, inside insulated thermal sleeping bags with opening to reveal our face, hands placed around the chest, like a mummy. Actually, it would be much more glam not to be inside the sleeping bag. But if I didn't wear it, I would be as hard as frozen meat inside a Kelvinator the next morning.

Late, late at night, after chilling out (literally) at the Absolut ice bar, I headed to our heated chalet to get my sleeping tool, then went straight to my fabulously sculpted bed, recited my Tutankhamen mantra, folded my arms and went to sleep.

"Good morning, sir!" The attendant's warm fingers touched my cold body. "Here is some warm lingon berry tea to wake you up." I looked around to icy blue interiors, almost heaven-like. In my mind's eye, I saw Cate Blanchett's Galadriel hovering around me. My room's ceiling had a hole, enough for the sun's ray to cast itself, like a subtle spotlight, on my bed.

It was another fine day.

ABSOLUT FRINGE. Erich Edralin's chill mode

ABSOLUT RITTS.

ABSOLUT curves of Naomi Campbell for Herb Ritts, which was shot at the Ice Hotel

ABSOLUT FROST. Miko Valenzuela exudes Yuletide cheer.

ABSOLUT TRAPPED. The author emulating Naomi inside the Absolut bottle

ABSOLUT FIGHT. Tim Yap in winter wonderland

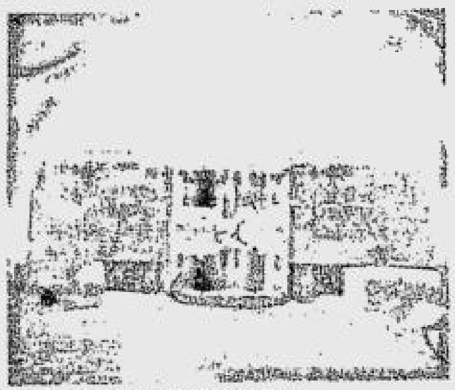
PHAROAH'S room

CARE for some ice cream?

COLD-EN Buddha

SALT N' PEPPA. Tanya Lara and Pepper Teehankee aboard the snowmobile

CABIN FEVER. Chiqui Tan, JP Santamaria and Bebeth Timbol



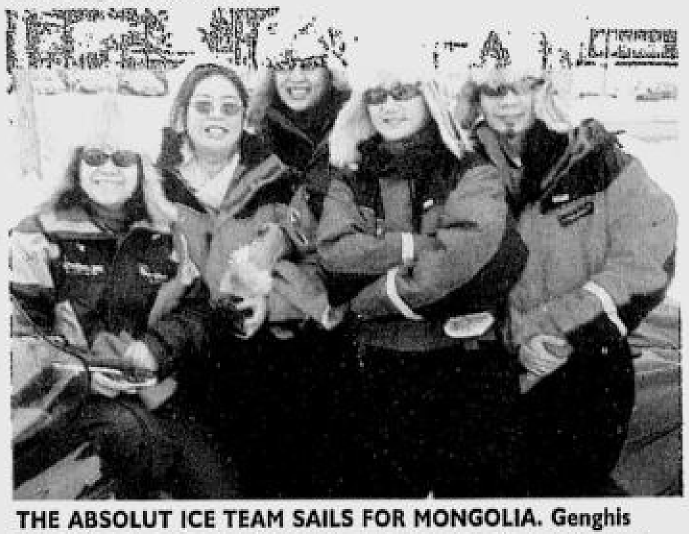
DOORWAY to frosty heaven

"NO lyrics, only emotions."

ABSOLUT ICE QUEEN. Tanya Lara looking cool in an igloo

ABSOLUT PALS. Bebeth Timbol and Linn Sandberg having dinner

ABSOLUT daddy JP Santamaria



THE ABSOLUT ICE TEAM SAILS FOR MONGOLIA. Genghis Khan, here we come! Bebeth Timbol, Tanya Lara, Chiqui Tan, Pepper Teehankee and Arnel Patawaran

GLASS blowing at the Ice Hotel

ABSOLUT SATISFACTION. A-lister Arnel Patawaran

CHIQUI winterland

Young fashion models take on worthy cause

IT'S not all parties and shows for these young guys and gals. After taking the ramp in the recent "Past Forward" fashion show, the members of the MTV-Penshoppe Youth Council took shovel and spade to be part of the Habitat for Humanity Build in Soldiers Hill, Muntinlupa City.

Habitat for Humanity seeks to help build houses for homeless families and is one of the many endeavors that the first MTV-Penshoppe Youth Council will take part in during the year. They will also be visiting orphanages and other institutions in the future under the guidance of their adviser, Anne Feo-Maningo.

Composed of Danielle Mendoza, Kelly Misa, Kathleen Hilario, Leila Lee Kuzma, Nicole Schulze, Terrence Koa, Richard Lozano, Marco Lobregat, Uriah Vanden Bos and Brad Turvey, the Youth Council members were formed to serve as role models for the youth. They possess the ideals that MTV Philippines and Penshoppe believe in—fun and free-spirited yet responsible, concerned and dedicated to the well-being of the community.

The MTV-Penshoppe Youth Council is also supported by Cali and I-Academy.

MARCO Lobregat and Kelly Misa

KATHLEEN Hilario and Uriah Vanden Bos

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Items on sale include TVs, DVD's, components, ovens, refrigerators, flat irons, electric fans, blenders, rice cooker and toaster ovens from such big names as Sony, Sharp, Samsung, LG, Whirlpool, La Germania and Elba.

Beauty product brands include Lander (from liquid soap, hand lotion, colognes for men and women, deodorants, soaps and shampoo to facial wash and hand sanitizers). Adidas sports apparel (shirts, shoes, backpacks, socks), camping gear and mountain bikes are available for those who love the outdoors.

You can also find home furniture (double-deck beds, utility chairs, sofas, bean bags, computer tables, drawers) items to fill up every corner of your home. And baby clothes from Big and Small, Osh Kosh B'Gosh, toys from Maxi Bear, and gifts sets (feeding bottles, children's books) from Learning is Fun are all yours at very attractive prices.

So hurry now and take advantage of huge savings your AIG Credit Card bring you. Without a doubt, it's better than CASH!

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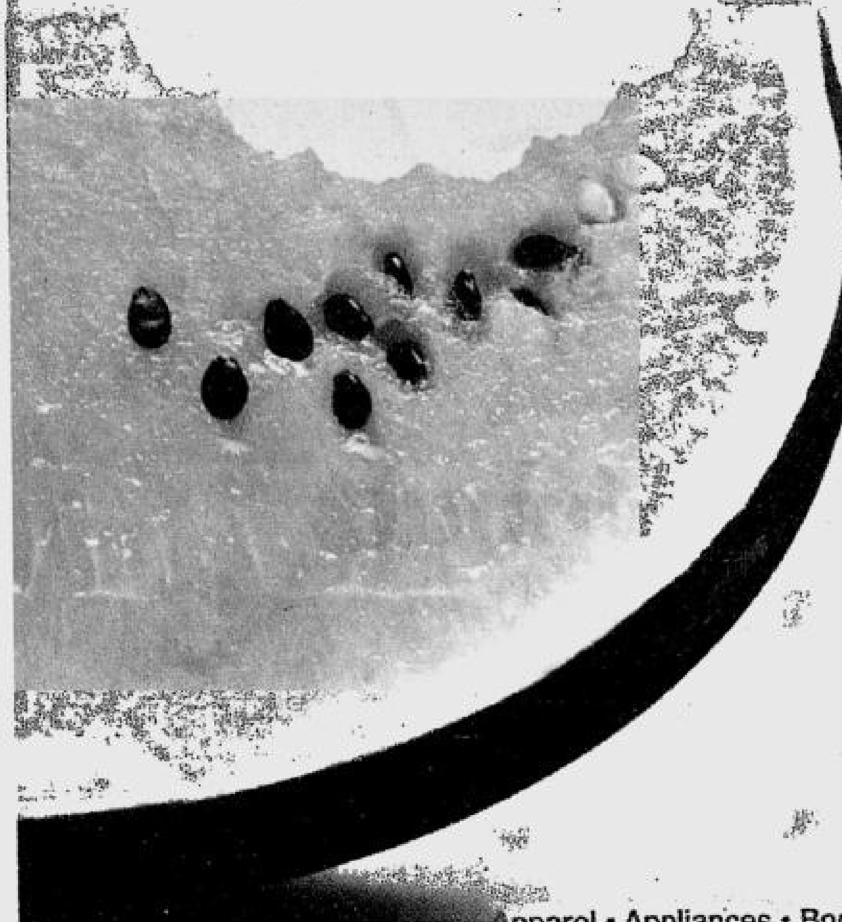

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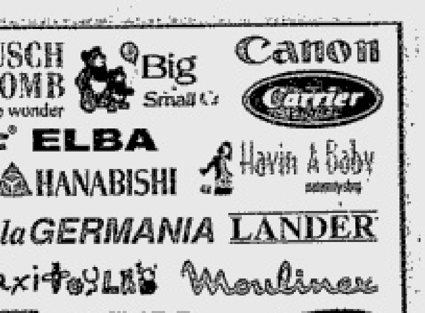

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It takes passion and discipline to master an art form

By Anne Rose Elicaño
2bU! Correspondent

I HAVE a crazy, one-sided love affair with art. In elementary, I always looked forward to art class even if my finger paintings were little more than globs of acrylic that turned grayish because of too much color mixing. In high school, cutouts of Van Gogh's "Starry Night" and illustrations from Neil Gaiman's "Sandman" graphic novels filled my organizer, alongside my own pitiable doodles. I hung out with a lot of artist friends, but none of their talents rubbed off on me. Art intrigued me no end but I had to face it, as an artist, I was hopeless.

Then opportunity came knocking on my door—an interview with Victor Bella, who has been described as "one of the finest upcoming artists." Not only that, he himself was going to teach me a thing or two about art. Yes! I thought. Whoever said that the universe conspired with you when you wished for something that was right.

TAKING lessons from Victor Bella

Lessons

I decided I wanted to learn how to make an impressionist painting of a penguin in a snow blizzard when Bella told me he was going to teach me how to make a flower sculpture. Aside from being a painter, Bella is also an industrial artist, someone who creates art that is both decorative and functional. Industrial artists make jewelry, candles, wall clocks, bottles and, of course, flower sculptures. "Don't worry, it's pretty basic and simple," he said over the phone, causing me to be initially disappointed. But then again, the penguin in the blizzard might have been too complicated—basic and simple was a good place to start for a wannabe artist like me. The fact that I was starting somewhere was what mattered anyway.

PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA

Before we began, Bella gathered all the materials we were going to use and laid them out in a manner a surgeon prepares his tools before an operation. There they were: air-drying clay, paint, scissors, floral wire, craft glue, and samples of the finished product. The sculptured flowers looked so much like the icing flowers they put on cakes that I kept wanting to eat them (my mindset now betrays why I fail at being an artist). Bella set them aside before I did anything crazy and began to brief me on the procedure.

"Start by cutting the clay into a small block. Then apply a tinge of poster color," he instructed as I fumbled with the clay. While most artists I know wax passionate when talking about their art, the intonation of my teacher's voice was measured and cool. Bella doesn't sound or even look like what people perceive of artists. If you ran into him in a mall you'd think he's a yuppie. Even he admits that he doesn't fit the stereotyped mold of an artist—no mood swings, no strange world of his own, no vices. In place of the trademark avant-garde aura is a reverence for art and thorough knowledge of it.

Once the paint was blended into the clay, Bella showed me how to shape it into a teardrop with my palms. As we worked, he talked about his artistic training. While other 5-year-old kids dream of becoming pilots or doctors, Bella knew at an early age that he wanted to be an artist. His parents saw his potential and started sending him to summer painting workshops. Bella would continue to impress people with his talent that, after high school, his dad enrolled him in the Maastricht Academy of Visual Arts in Holland, where he majored in painting. Students in the academy were not loaded with subjects unrelated to art and had the opportunity to study the original paintings of the European masters, such as Monet.

By now, I had succeeded at forming a lopsided clay teardrop. Bella did the necessary tweaking and then taught me how to cut into it to form the petals. Flowers are pretty prevalent in his art, along with angels and seascapes. His paintings depict scenes from nature at their most serene and peaceful forms. Bella describes his style as a combination of surrealism and impressionism. When you look closely at "Lotus" or any of his other paintings you'll notice a dreamlike quality in them that is brought to life with vivid colors.

Cutting the clay was a bit tricky because it kept sticking to the scissors. When I was finished, he used a stick to turn the petals upward in one smooth motion. I started to imitate him when he told me I was using the wrong hand—no wonder something felt weird. It was then when I realized that being an artist is no joke. It would take more than passion and discipline to master forms of art that are more complex than flower sculpturing. Only discipline would drive artists such as Bella throughout sleepless nights to finish a masterpiece. Only passion for art would cause a man to celebrate life through his chosen creative medium. In the words of Bella, "enjoying nature and then capturing it in your artwork is a really amazing job."

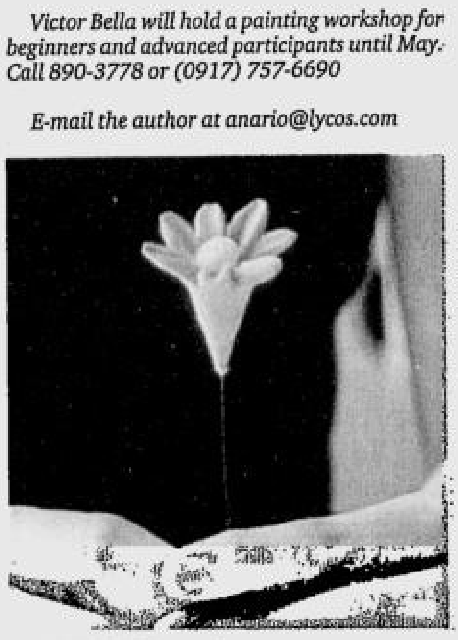
Once the petals were perfected under Bella's scrutiny, I inserted floral wire through the clay to make a makeshift stem. Voila, I had just made a flower sculpture.

Epilogue

The flower sculpture now stands on my desk. "Better than those finger paintings," my mom says with pride, recalling the failed masterpieces I used to bring her in kindergarten. In truth, the flower sculpture isn't anything magnificent but it isn't all that bad either. Again, I think about the penguin in a blizzard painting I wanted to make.

Victor Bella will hold a painting workshop for beginners and advanced participants until May. Call 890-3778 or (0917) 757-6690

E-mail the author at anario@lycos.com



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Chatting isn't the Devil's handiwork

By Gary Mercado
2bU! Correspondent

SIMPLY put, chatting is talking to anyone about anything. It is a light-hearted, easy-going conversation, which in an earlier age might have involved tea or coffee and cookies. In today's world, chatting has become an activity one does over the Internet using personal computers, involving two or more people who are often strangers to each other.

This kind of chatting may look pretty harmless but, unfortunately, it has gained an unsavory reputation over the years as an activity for loners, perverts and opportunists.

The Internet, that "terrible, awful invention fashioned by the Devil himself" as some people see it, has become the technology of choice for the lowlifes of this world to spread their scum. And among the Internet's many evil ways, there does not seem to be a more damaging, more effective way to proliferate their evil plans than chat.

At least that's how the media has, for the most part, depicted this new technology. Kidnappings, rapes and other criminal acts are reportedly being made possible by chatting. Evildoers even now are scanning people's personal computers, collecting private information, waiting to pounce on the innocent at the first opportunity. They are making a list, checking it twice, and.. well, at least that's what they are supposed to be doing.

A measure of paranoia is good, but really! Would these crimes have been avoided if the Internet had not come along? What percentage of the thousands of people who log on to the Net comes across maniacs with modems? Is a crime done via the Internet worse than, say, neighborhood homicides and abuses? And do people really just allow themselves to be taken advantage of just because they meet the offenders over the Net?

I needed answers so for a week and a half, with prepaid internet cards and a borrowed Nokia 3310 (the heavy texter's phone of choice), I searched for them.

IRC

Internet Relay Chat (IRC) has survived the test of time. Everyone I know has chatted on IRC at least once or twice in their lives, although they will not admit it openly for reasons I did not bother to find out.

Here are some of those:

S' asl (age, sex, location) is 24fqc. She likes the E-heads a lot and we discussed Ely Buendia's recent decision at length. She works in a credit card company and, when asked which one, she says "It's 'secret'," with a smiley. I told her a song I liked and she typed in the refrain. I thought that was really cool and told her so. We talked a bit more about this and that until she had to go.

G is 20fpasay. She "macs" (generic term meaning sending you a private message) me about my nick which sounded interesting and asked about it. Her nick and the way she approached me initially made me think it was all fun, but after a while realized I was talking to a serious, intelligent person who, unbelievably, was only 20. Eventually I trusted her enough to tell her about my research for this article, which she found impressive (duh!) and interesting. She is a social sciences major and a high school teacher. I gathered she was sincere about all this and responded with interest. We traded e-mail messages and, while I only half expect to hear from her again, I actually enjoyed our conversation. She never asked for my asl.

I only met two guys, R and 2D. I met R, a FilAm (17mCalif) at a local basketball-related chatroom, and we discussed the NBA playoffs. He is a Pistons fan and we talked about them a bit. I told him I preferred Dallas and we chatted on.

2D thought my nick was a girl's and our chat went something like:

2D: hi!
Me: hey!
2D: wsup?
Me: nt much. u?
2D: w8, u m/f?
Me: m.
2D: oops. sorry!
Me: np (no problem).
(Much later)
2D: good luk, pre.

I took it to mean he was wishing me luck with the girls. I replied: tnx.

JK is 23fsampaloc and working in a bank in Makati. After talking, I asked for and received her picture. She is, in common parlance, a "hottie." I told her so. She was modest, but I knew she knew it. I tried asking for her number, but she said she'd rather call me. I gave her mine, and we talked through the night.

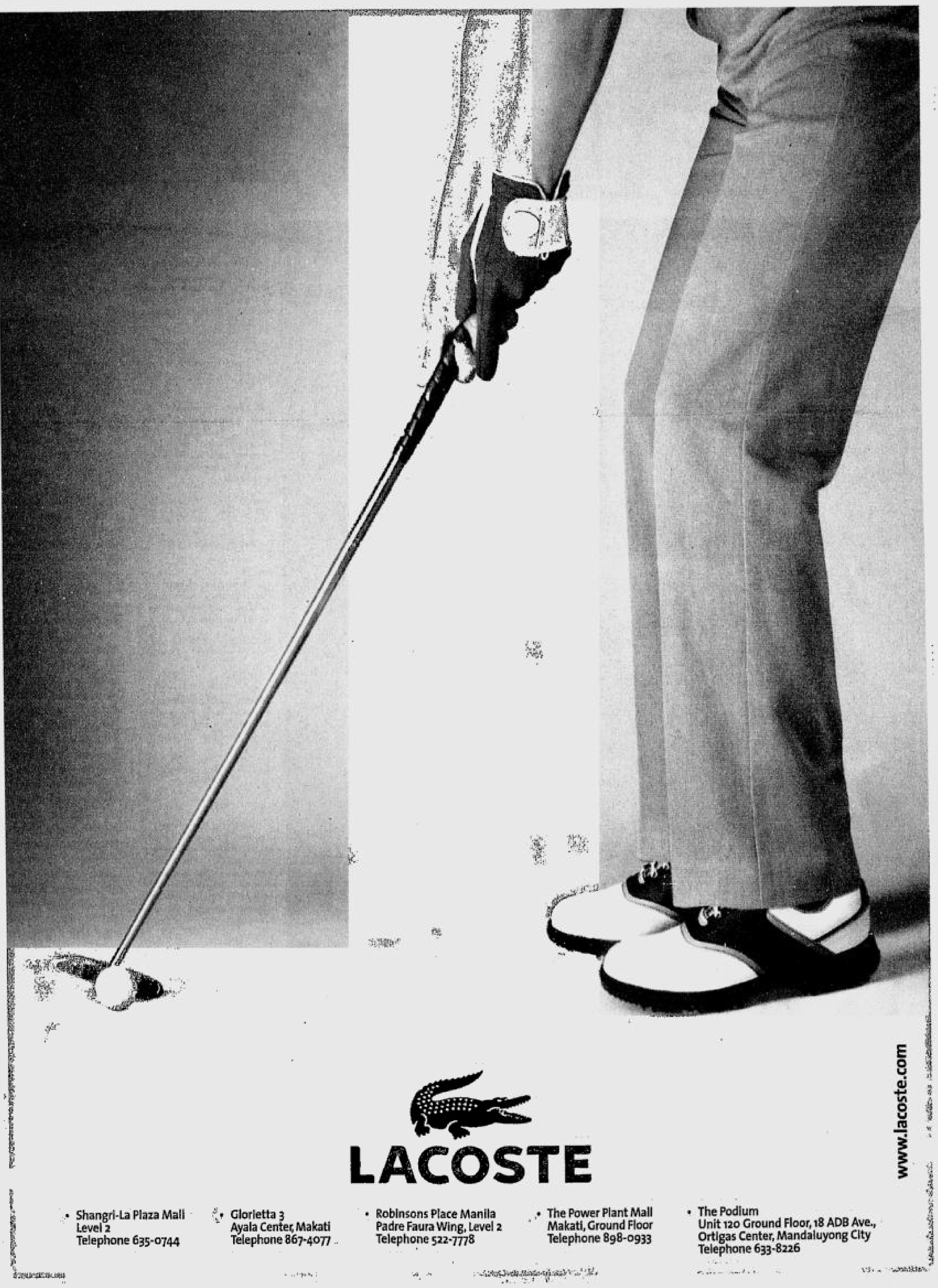
HC works in an ad agency, is two years my junior, lives near my place and graduated from a rival school. She is interesting, vibrant and witty. We talked about work, and found we had a lot in common. I was chatting with two or three others but I eventually decided to concentrate on her. I asked for her number, which I immediately regretted as I might have been too forward. She declined, saying she'd rather chat for a while longer. I agreed and we continued to engage in some of the most interesting banters I had since I tried out chat. I wanted to tell her so many things, and she was responding but apparently she got disconnected as she disappeared in the middle of our conversation. I waited for her for 10 more minutes, and then logged off as I didn't feel like talking to anyone else that night. As I shut off my PC, my mind lingered on her.

SMS

There's an SMS-powered service on television. You register your cell phone to be able to chat. You will be able to see the messages you send on your TV, as well as the replies. Responses are not sent directly to your phone

CHATTING/ p.G3

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ



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SMART
Simply Amazing!

Cool off this summer with the right beach wear

SPEEDO, the world-famous brand, launched recently its Spring/Summer 2002 Collection at Wasabi Bistro and Sake Bar in Makati. The leisure collection for men and women was sporty, classy and oozing with sex appeal.

For athletic personalities, the Sports Fashion is a stylish range of sportswear developed for action and sports, that will look good on the beach. Men's shorts were inspired by "Varsity" themes.

The leisure set for women featured bold flowers on solid navy. Swimwear adopted the corset style, boning, underwiring and sheer mesh to emphasize and enhance the female shape. The Mirabeau range combined merged shades, prints and patterns with floral details for a range of funky swimwear.

Women's styles incorporated the season's hottest silhouette—the triangle bikini. Men's beach shorts incorporated big logo branding and stripe detailing. Longer Bermuda shorts and versatile check shirts as cool cover up were featured.

Slate and Plum, which drew inspiration from North African cultures, offered a vibrant set for women with colors evocative of sunsets and deserts.

Complemented by subtle earth tones. The grand finale featured a glamorous and alluring all-black swimwear line, with mesh in corset-like style for silhouettes that flattered the female body.

Speedo has it all for the boldest, hottest and most daring men and women these hot months ahead with its vibrant and funky themes.

Analiza Malvar

LEISURE

PREMIERE Leisure

ACTIVE

'80s disco glam relived

COGIE Domingo

TODAY'S hottest fashions reconstructed in terms of the funky styles of the '80s was truly fabulous as Penshoppe grabbed center stage at the recent Philippine Fashion Week in Glorietta.

With "Past Forward"—the hottest retro party featuring the hottest '80s disco, Faces—Penshoppe really hammed it up, to the delight of audiences that jam-packed Glorietta's Activity Center. Penshoppe's newly chosen Penshoppe and MTV Youth Council sashayed on the catwalk, fully decked out in Penshoppe's latest gear.

Moving to the beat of favorite '80s music were young stunners all: Cogie Domingo, Marco Lobregat, Terence Koa, Uriah Vanden Bos, Danielle Mendoza, Kelly Misa, Lena Kuzma, Brad Turvy, Richard Lozano, Kathleen Hilario and Nicole Schulze. The Summer Penshoppe Fashion collection they showcased sizzled with the prime colors of summer—pastels, earth tones, reds, whites and blues. Notable from the men's line was the nautical shirts collection with the coolest accents, zips, stripes and graphic prints. For the ladies, peasant blouses, halter and tube tops dominated. SPF Denims took control with its varied shades, cuts and styles for men and ladies.

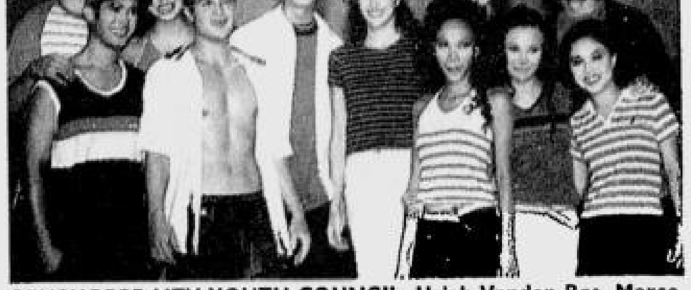
As the night wore on, Glorietta's entertainment center was transformed into the unique party place of the '80s—Faces. And indeed famous faces and party people who might have bumped into each other at the Faces Disco back then trooped to Glorietta that night and danced the night away with today's party generation who seemingly couldn't get enough of '80s fashion and music. Of course, Faces owner Bobong Velez was there, as were MTV's Francis and Maryann Lumen, Sen. John Osmeña, NU 107's Atom Henares, Choy Cojuangco of the newly revitalized Streetlife, Sonny Tantiangco, Carmina Davia, Rod Nepomuceno, Cheska Laurel, Adidas's new marketing director Angge Suiza, Izza Gonzales-Agana and husband Yakie Agana, Donnie Ramirez, Resty Vergara and Penshoppe's Bernie and Alice Liu.

Faces' ledge girls and DJs attended, bringing back that classic Faces spirit. A stylized (Faces-like, of course) retro '80s version of the Summer Penshoppe Fashion collection was also restaged for the highly charged crowd.

Penshoppe bonded with MTV Classic to create the party event that surely created a stir among the acknowledged party people of then and now. Relive "Past Forward" at www.Penshoppe.com.

MTV'S Rod Nepomuceno and Angelica Suiza

MONINA Lacson, Yackie and Izza Agana, Monette Cruz and Denise Lacson



PENSHOPPE-MTV YOUTH COUNCIL. Uriah Vanden Bos, Marco Lobregat, Kelly Misa, Richard Lozano, Cogie Domingo, Leila Kuzma, Kathleen Hilario, Terence Koa, Nicole Schulze, Danielle Mendoza and Brad Turvy.

Enchanted Kingdom

HOW MANY REASONS ARE THERE TO CELEBRATE THIS SUMMER?

Exactly 7! Because that's how old we'll be this summer. And to celebrate, we've thought up of 7 enticing treats just for you. So for 7 times the thrills, cap off your summer with a trip to Enchanted Kingdom.

1
7th Fireworks Competition
This promises to be our most dazzling fireworks display yet. It features 7 top competitors lighting up the night sky for top honors.
May 4 7:00PM Spaceport
Brought to you by SMART

2
Jeff Simon's World of Magic
See some of the most spectacular and spell-binding feats performed by world-renowned magician, Jeff Simon. His show is one you'll have to see to believe.
April 28 3PM / 6PM Launch Pad
May 4 3PM / 6PM Launch Pad
May 5 3PM / 6PM Launch Pad
*Admission fee ₱75.00
Brought to you by SMART

3
Mardi Gras Parade
The celebrations spill over into the streets with our first ever Mardi Gras Festival.
April 27 & 28 3:30/8:00PM Portabello
May 4 & 5 3:30/8:00PM Portabello

4
Dragon and Lion Dances
You're in luck! We're also featuring live and authentic Dragon and Lion Dances in the Park.
May 4 & 5 2PM / 3:30PM / 6PM Parkwide

5
Macau City of Culture
Experience traditional Chinese arts as artisans from Macau demonstrate their various crafts. A sweet maker, a caricature artist, a figure craftsman, a profile cutter and musicians will introduce to you their centuries old culture.
May 4 2-9PM Discovery Workshop
May 5 2-9PM Discovery Workshop
Brought to you by Macau Government Tourist Office

6
Lucky Visitor of the Day
Visit the Park on our 7th Anniversary Celebration and get a chance to be our "Lucky Visitor of the Day." As such, you get Fast Passes for all rides, ₱700 in Wizard Money, a souvenir photo with the Wizard and Princess Victoria, plus ticket upgrades for you and your companions.

7
New Ride Opening
Starting May 1, one of our most thrilling rides returns to send you and the rest of the family on a trip into orbit. This time around, it's no longer "The Enterprise." What it's called, we'll let you decide.

That's not all!
Be part of our Flores De Mayo celebrations on May 4 & 5. Catch the DWTM Concert at the Park Bandstand on May 5. And experience all the rest of the thrills that'll be coming your way as we turn 7. See you there!

In cooperation with: SMART Simply Amazing!

Special thanks to: PEPSI Knott's The Manila Times

*The Park will be closed on April 29, and on May 18 and 25 for an exclusive corporate booking. We are open on May 1 from 10am to 10pm. For inquiries on the complete Park schedule, please call 840 2111 to 17 or 843 6075 to 78

Chatting . . .

From page G1

as you are represented only by a nickname. An "Admin" person monitors conversations for abusive messages. A dictionary server prevents pre-configured profanity from getting online. However, many seemed to have learned to get around this so occasionally something nasty slips through. The Admin also seems unable to control nicknames, and occasionally asks people to change their nick. I also doubt if an Admin is available at all hours of the day.

The three panels on TV show MTVs, movie previews and even popular animé and PlayStation game videos. I imagine this is what the targeted age group of teenagers prefers to watch. The combination makes the chatroom wild and crazy even when half-full, with never-ending greetings, people asking for textmates, and mostly male texters with racy messages asking girls to contact them.

I joined up and sent an invite. No takers. So I changed my tactic by adding "will reload ur fone." Ten text messages offering friendship, plus a service performed by a homosexual, came in the next minute. None of them was interesting enough. Several were exercises in terrible diction. Hey, I massacre the English language just as badly as anyone when texting, but "hi m so badly bord hir. cute guy mee. wna mit? grit kta. tnx!" is hilarious.

I tried hard to find someone sensible without success. I continued to receive offers for "services" that made my hair stand on end, and the few girls whose numbers I called didn't talk very long. There were several miscalls throughout the day, making me glad I used a different SIM for this. This chatting is a major form of *kulitan* among bored kids. Eventually I ended up watching the excellent MTVs—this is where I first saw a U2 video in karaoke and a live performance by Brownbeat All Stars.

Now what?

Of course, it's possible to get into trouble chatting. After all, you are dealing with strangers. Like I said, a certain measure of paranoia is always healthy. But in IRC, I never met anyone who willingly gave their phone numbers or addresses to me, even e-mail was given only after some hesitation. While the ratio was probably 1 in 10, I had the opportunity to talk to some really interesting people. But even after talking for a while, some degree of privacy was still maintained.

Chat is not for everyone, however, although I sincerely believe that it is only as dangerous as you make it. Something could happen, but only if you allow it. It's just as dangerous to cross a street. If you are not alert and careful, you will get run over.

As to the benefits, judging from my own experience, I met people who have remained good friends over the years. I used to chat on a regular basis years ago. Perhaps, as everyone I know does, it is good to maintain some degree of mystery when you chat.

A technology for promiscuity

FORGET IRC, forget mobile chat. This society's sexually charged underground sector has found a new nesting place—television's text channels.

The discovery took place during one particularly boring nocturnal channel-surfing session. I ended up reading the scrolling messages and was shocked at what I saw. Most people there, very young people, if their proclaimed ages are correct, seemed to be looking for the same things—clan members for their CounterStrike games, prepaid cards for their mobile phones, love quotes, ring tones and sex, sex and more sex.

Just days later, it was decided. Gary and I were to immerse ourselves in this not-so-underground underground to see if the chatters here are as sexually motivated as they seem at first glance.

The answer is an explosive yes.

Observer

On the first night, I decided to devote two hours of my night to watching the screen. I did not sign up. I was a mere observer. One guy was looking for a married woman. Another guy posted, "Call while it's hard *pa*" and then bravely posted his home number for the world to see. The obsession with schoolgirls seemed to be taking over, too—there was a high demand for girls from exclusive schools. One guy was specific, he wanted "a hot girl from any Catholic school." There was one looking for "ladies in heat" and another looking for someone "*tisay*." Stupid irony, one guy who had the gall to use the nickname "hugedick" was in search for someone "discrete."

Even before the issues about sexual activities that stem from these channels came up, there had already been complaints from people whose phone numbers—either mobile or home—have been displayed on the channel by strangers. Some of the owners of these phone numbers have never spent a minute on these text channels before. The people behind this technology came up with a new rule—no landline numbers were to be posted and only registered mobile numbers may appear on the channel. Good rule but not necessarily foolproof. The channels' inhabitants have found a way around this little regulation. They use punctuation marks to separate one number from another or spelled out the words. They easily and successfully dupe the filter.

Countless men displayed their home and mobile numbers. And if you think these numbers are ignored, think again. If you tried calling a number (we are speaking hypothetically, I am in no degree encouraging you to try this) right after it was flashed on the screen, it would almost always be busy. I decided to take the plunge and started calling one number. It was busy. But two minutes later, the phone rang and a guy picked up. I asked him if many people had called him already. He said yes. If that was the case, I asked, why was it that I was able to get through? Why wasn't he talking to them? He answered nonchalantly, "*Puro bading at katulong, eh.*" Oh-kay. This same guy was also terribly paranoid. "*Naka*-three-way *tayo; noh?*" he said, expressing his fear that someone else was listening to us on the line. I said no, that I was using a headset. He remained dubious.

Plunge

The next day, I was ready for my complete plunge. I got myself a new SIM card and bravely posted my number. Within two minutes, I got 24 messages and countless missed calls. Over the next few days, I tried using different identities. It didn't matter which persona I used—demure, clueless, easy, sex-starved maniac—the results were all the same.

Text messages would pour in. "I'm hot, r u?" "u want sex?" "lets mit." "call me at my landline." "sop tayo." "nipple color? cup size?"

The phone would start ringing. Without even saying hello, strangers–some sounding ancient—would start the conversation in breathy and raspy voices with, "What are you wearing?" or "Are you alone in your room?" Then they would ask for your landline. When I would refuse to give it, they would give me theirs.

Without even asking about you first, men would ask to meet you. "Meet tyo sa ortigas area, so f we dcide 2 hav a 1 nyt stand wer near d motels na." "sex tau, girl k ba?" "Can we meet @ 8am? Il go to ur place na lang. Can I hav ur xact location?" When asked why this guy wanted to meet someone so early, he said, "D early bird catches the horny worm, ryt?"

A 21-year-old guy who seems shocked at the kind of people that have invaded the channels gamely shared some of his "eyeball" experiences. The first girl he met turned out to be a drug addict. "*Niyaya niya ako mag-shabu. Sabi ko, hindi ko* trip *yan.*" The second girl he met was too forward. "She asked me to go to her house. She thought her parents weren't going to be home. *Buti na lang nandun* because even on the phone I think she was planning to do something. Before I left, she even asked me for a kiss. I kissed her forehead and then I left."

Yes, this is scary. When you think about the supposed presence of administrators, it is scary. When you think about a messaging filter that is not efficient, it is scary. When you think about the fact that this is on 24/7 and can be viewed by children, it is scary. When you think about users abusing their freedom, it is scary. When you think about pubescent girls active in this channel, it is scary. When you think about technology becoming a tool for promoting promiscuity, it becomes more than scary. It becomes a problem. A big one.

Pam Pastor

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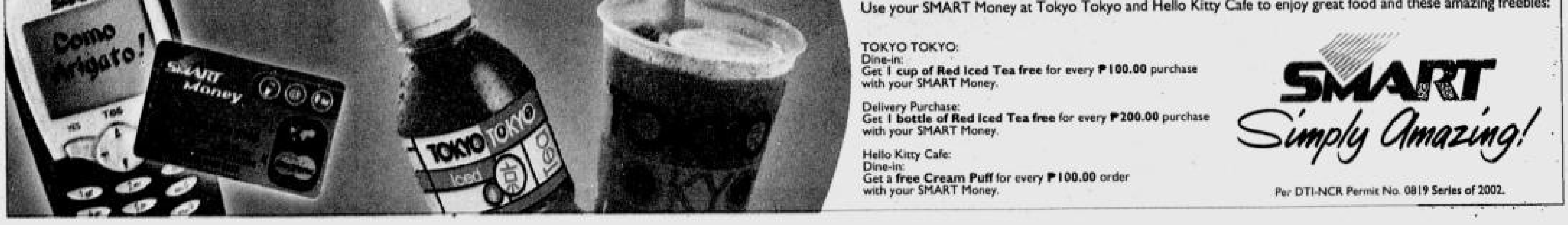

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Hello Kitty Cafe:
Dine-in:
Get a free Cream Puff for every ₱100.00 order with your SMART Money.

SMART Simply Amazing!

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0819 Series of 2002.

Soundtracks that give zest to films

By Maui V. Reyes
2bUI Correspondent

'Resident Evil'
MCA Universal

Attention, video game freaks and people looking for good entertainment at the movies: steer clear of "Resident Evil." Not only will you leave the movie house dumping this movie on your "Video Game-Based Movies that Sucked" list (which includes "Final Fantasy" and "Tomb Raider"), you'll also realize what a waste of money it was to see Mila Jovovich kick zombie-Doberman butt.

A consolation to the disappointing flick will be the soundtrack—that is, if listening to more of Marilyn Manson's personal music collection (the one that's radio-friendly) doesn't bother you as much as seeing heroines battling the dead in ripped skirts with guns. Or do you?

> When in doubt with the film's oomph! factor, reach for the soundtrack

Nothin' but good ol' heavy rock that could wake up the dead. Method Man, Saliva, Coal Chamber and Static-X, among many others, have found a spot in this album, as well as four tracks, with the original score, all done by Marilyn Manson.

What we don't get is how producers mixed the ingredients of a B-movie (genetic experimentations gone wrong, zombies for company, slick chicks who tote state-of-the-art weapons) and came up with a high-grossing one. So they racked their brains (what was left of it, anyway) to come up with a soundtrack to boost the movie.

What you'll get from the soundtrack, though, are a bunch of mixed-up hard rock artists whose music is probably used as snippets in every fight scene. It was as if it was put together for the sake of having a soundtrack.

Although the soundtrack shouldn't entirely be on that "Movie Soundtracks that Sucked" list of yours, you might want to reconsider some of the remixes on the album. Slipknot, The Crystal Method and Fear Factory are those who took the time and effort to add a little more power to their songs, with Marilyn Manson getting help from Slipknot in "The Fight Song."

Not for the weak at heart, "Resident Evil" is best played when you've overcome those hideous zombie scenes and the annoying apparitions of the Red Queen. This album is oozing with testosterone, with adrenaline pumping every single second on each and every track. Depeche Mode's contribution, "Dirt," gives you a goofy four minutes and 57 seconds to relax before jumping back into the pool of heart-thumping music, such as Ill Nino's "What Comes Around" (Day of the Dead Mix).

Then again, you just might be a Manson fan with a fetish for hot chicks with guns.

'Queen of the Damned'
Warner Music

Yes, we know it was a total waste of time and money (for guys, anyway). Although most women would agree that the vampire Lestat (as played by Irish hunk Stuart Townsend) is probably one of the very few men on the planet who looks good in leather pants, let's not forget that he *is* a rock star. And rock stars will be rock stars—they make good music but can't carry a storyline even for the sake of production money.

A novel deliciously wrapped around the world of fame and rock 'n' roll, the soundtrack takes off with that distinct Anne Rice erotic twist of beats and rhythm that reminds us of Lestat's hip-swaying concert performance. This soundtrack doesn't put together just *any* hard rock composition. Music from "Queen of the Damned" is probably the one thing that breathed life into the movie, what with the cast's bland performance.

Five of the songs on this 14-track album were written just for the movie. Composed by Korn front man Jonathan Davis and worked on by soundtrack veteran Richard Gibbs, the songs were brought to life by the front men of Top 40 bands Linkin Park, Disturbed, Static-X and Orgy. These are the men behind Lestat, the men that made Lestat ooze with sex appeal, the voices that put Lestat's pain and suffering into words. It also opens up a soundtrack composed of artists like Papa Roach, Earshot, Godhead and, of course, Marilyn Manson.

Dark and sexy, this soundtrack could very well fit in a kinder bat's selection, a pre-introduction to goth music for those commercially bred goth kids. There's something for everybody in this nü-metal-induced soundtrack. Although there are no remixes in this ditty, who would want to pass up on hearing Chester Bennington of Linkin Park fly solo or David Draiman of Disturbed wail out Lestat's "Forsaken" single?

Although composed of new releases, previously released cuts that are sprinkled on this album add spice to this stellar soundtrack. Disturbed's "Change (In the House of Flies)" adds that sexy bathtub scene in the album, and Papa Roach's angry "Dead Cells" and Disturbed's rage in "Down with the Sickness" are just the right ingredients to a winning soundtrack.

Oozing with just about the same sex appeal as Lestat, "The Queen of the Damned" soundtrack is *not* a waste of your time or money. Put it this way: without the music, the movie would have sucked.

QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
SONGS BY JONATHAN DAVIS AND RICHARD GIBBS PERFORMED BY:
WAYNE STATIC OF STATIC-X
DAVID DRAIMAN OF DISTURBED
CHESTER BENNINGTON OF LINKIN PARK
MARILYN MANSON
JAY GORDON OF ORGY
AND MUSIC BY:
PAPA ROACH
DEFTONES
DISTURBED
STATIC-X
EARSHOT
GODHEAD
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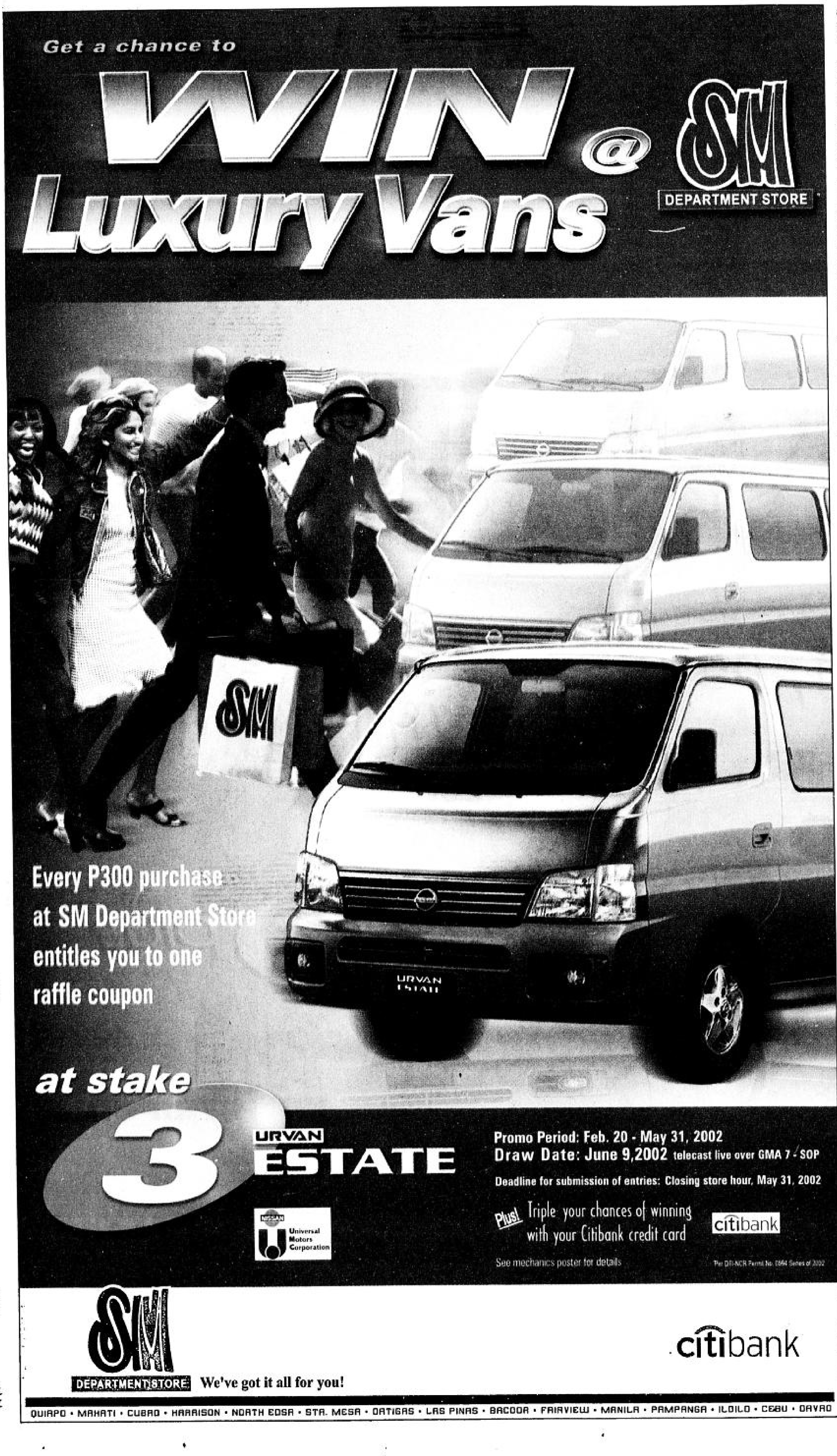
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